

AP/SOSC 2110 REVIEW ESSAY- due 3rd November 2011

View the 2001 film **“Wit”**, directed by Mike Nicols and starring Emma Thompson - available at the York Library and some video stores or on the web. This is a powerful story of cancer treatment, told from the patient’s perspective.

The film **“Wit”** deals with key themes covered in the first section of this course: the cultures of health professionals, the power of biomedical expertise and health technologies, and the nature and function of health care institutions. **Relating the themes of professionalism, power, technology and institutional culture to the film and the essay, and using specific references to course lectures, films and readings, discuss how the elements of the biomedical model which we have been exploring in AS/SOSC 2110 shape the experience of Vivian Bearing, the cancer patient depicted in “Wit.”** Reference lectures, films and readings by indicating at the end of a particular sentence the source of information or analysis, i.e. (Lecture, 28 Sept 2010, Western Biomedicine – the Professionals) or (Film, 5 October 2010, Not My Home.) Then the person grading your essay will be able to see the source of your ideas.

Your essay should be 1,500 to 2,000 words, typed and double-spaced in 12 pt font. Before you begin you should read the attached “Notes for Writing Your Essay” and “A Note on Grading” carefully so that you have a clear understanding of what is expected of you in this assignment. Please note that although you are welcome to read more broadly if you wish, you should be able to write this essay by drawing on material from course lectures, films and class readings. **Send your teaching assistance an electronic copy of your paper and also keep an extra copy of the paper for your files.**

Essays are due by 4:30 pm on 3 November 2011. They should be placed in the AP/SOSC 2110 assignment drop box on the 7th floor, South Tower Ross. Essays received later than the due date will be penalized 1% per day. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Director but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter) and an alternative due date negotiated with the Dr Megan Davies, the course director, prior to 3rd November.

Good Luck!

NOTES FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY:

An essay is an **argumentative** piece of writing and should clearly address the question or task posed in the essay handout. Begin by thinking globally about the essay topic, making rough notes of your ideas and of points that you think your answer should cover. Organize your argument in a logical fashion, supporting each point you make with evidence drawn from the film and course materials. Then you are ready to begin writing your essay, using this basic essay structure:

- Introduction
- Main body
- Conclusion

The **introduction** should provide some background, briefly respond to the essay question and outline the argument to follow. The introduction should be no more than 10% of the total words required. The introduction should aim to provoke the interest of the reader.

The **main body** of the essay should answer the question and develop the arguments outlined in the introduction.

The **conclusion** should be concise and summarize the arguments presented. It should not contain any new material, but it may suggest possible future directions. Ideally, the conclusion should have a certain strength and depth of conviction which persuades the reader.

Essays should also have:

- Paragraphs which contain one main developed idea or argument.
- Links between paragraphs.
- A logical organization (start out by making an outline for your paper).
- Include appropriate facts and examples to back up your arguments.
- Ideas that are referenced.

Once you have finished writing: remember to go back and proof read your essay – read it out loud – get a friend to read it. Go through the following checklist:

- Are there any spelling errors in my essay?
- Are there any awkward phrases that I can edit?
- Have I covered the points listed in the handout, i.e. **have I done what I have been asked to do in this assignment?**
- Do I have a solid introduction and conclusion?

A NOTE ON GRADING:

Your essay will be graded on the following criteria.

Content: We will be looking to see if your paper demonstrates that you have understood the relevant course material and have used ideas, concepts and information from the course in your essay.

Critical Analysis: Here you need to show evidence of academic thought, of having interpreted the course material in a way which shows you have worked with the ideas. Do not simply restate lecture material. Good essays show originality of thought – pulling together different topics and presenting fresh interpretations.

Structure: This is very important in an essay. We will be looking to see if your ideas are organized to present a clear, logical argument, with a strong, clear thesis statement, continuity from paragraph to paragraph and a good introduction and conclusion.

Presentation: Good ideas and good analysis deserve good presentation. We will also be taking into account spelling, grammar, and good sentence structure when we review your essay. Remember that this is an academic paper and should be written in a formal style, avoiding jargon, clichés, and slang.