City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY Academic Works

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Drama 111: Theater Design Historical Film Analysis Project

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HISTORICAL FILM ANALYSIS PROJECT
DRAMA 111
SUMMER 2021

This project is intended to help you master the use of PRIMARY HISTORICAL RESEARCH. You will select one of the historical films from the list below, and work with a partner create a Powerpoint presentation that demonstrates your research and understanding of the time period depicted in the film, and analyzes how successful you think the designer was at depicting it accurately but with an understanding of storytelling. In the Part II of the project, you and your partner will create a costume design of yourselves as characters in the play, accurately reflecting the historical setting and the artistic choices of the film's designers.

<u>**HISTORICAL FILMS**</u> (PLEASE NOTE- THE YEAR DENOTED HERE IS THE YEAR THE FILM WAS ISSUED, NOT THE HISTORICAL PERIOD DEPICTED):

EMMA. (2020)
MARIE ANTOINETTE (2004)
CROUCHING TIGER HIDDEN DRAGON (2000)
DEVDAS (2002)*
DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST (1991)
LOVE & FRIENDSHIP (2016)*
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (2005)*
THRONE OF BLOOD (1957)

PART I:

Create a Powerpoint presentation that details at least <u>SIX</u> costumes from the film that you think are especially powerful. With either a voiceover or additional slides of text detailing your reasoning, explain the importance of each costume, how accurately the time period is reflected, your own understanding of the time period based on your research, and show a minimum of three pieces of PRIMARY historical research that are related to each costume you want to discuss. Each partner should be responsible for THREE of the pieces.

PART II:

Using your costume design of yourself from JUNE 9th, imagine that you are going to be a character in this film, and create a costume that fits the overall design aesthetic of the film and expressed your personality. Your design should have no less than SEVEN images of supporting PRIMARY historical research. You can also use Inspirational research from the design of the film, contemporary fashion, your wardrobe or other sources, but PLEASE label your research carefully. Your

costume design should be composed of two sketches, full length front and back including all hair, makeup, and accessories. Each partner should complete a sketch, and they should harmonize with the original film and with one another.

FAQs:
- You must select one of the films on the list
- Films which contain no nudity, profanity, violence, or overt sexuality are denoted with an *. If it is important to you to only view certain films, please do your research and make sure that the film you are viewing falls within your accepted standards.
- **<u>You cannot do this project by reading the Wikipedia page of this film</u>**. You must watch the film closely AT LEAST once, and perhaps a couple of times, and then you will need to research the costumes of the film online to make your Powerpoint. Trying to cheat will only result in creating way more work for yourself with nothing to show for it. Be smart. Just do the work as assigned and don't make it harder by trying NOT to spend two hours watching an entertaining movie.
- The Powerpoint part of the project requires some coordination with your partner. Be respectful of other people's time. Also, hash out a detailed schedule ahead of time so you are both on the same page about your commitment.
- You can imagine yourself as anyone in the story- a background character, Your favorite character, or a new character who upends the story. Just make sure that your design and research choices support who you are in the story, as well as being true to you as a person.
- Your two sketches do not need to be the same size, the back view can be smaller. You can also do a side view instead if the costume would look better that way.
- You can use any media to create your sketches. It is okay to use photoshop as long as you are not just photoshopping a piece of research onto an image and calling it your sketch. You need to make the research your own, and use elements of storytelling in your sketch.

Project Elements:
PART I:
- A detailed Powerpoint with SIX costumes from the film
- Images of the costumes under discussion
- Three pieces of supporting PRIMARY historical research for each costume being discussed
- A voiceover for the whole piece, or a detailed slide of text discussing why you think this costume is important to the journey of the character/story, and demonstrating knowledge and research about the historical time period depicted.
PART II:

- Your mini project containing the research of a costume of you
- Two Sketches (one front and one back view) of you as a character in the film, set in the correct historical period
- Detailed hair, make-up and accessory choices in the sketches
- Seven pieces of PRIMARY historical research supporting the design

GRADING RUBRIC:
1. Complete Project
2. Accuracy of Historical research
3. Knowledge of the historical time period
4. Insight into the original film
5. Harmonious and detailed choices for Part II
6. Originality of ideas
7. Storytelling and artistic quality of the sketches