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### Sociology Ethnographic Film Review

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### **Sociology Ethnographic Film Review**

This assignment is for you to analyze a film in the context as examples of how class, status and power operate within our society. This is an exercise in using film as a method of ethnography to understand how sociologists study issues that impact people's lives.

You are required to complete two of these assignments. The following due dates are:

1. *1<sup>st</sup> Paper Due*
2. *2<sup>nd</sup> Paper Due*

Instructions:

1. Select a film from this list:

- *Capitalism: A Love Story*, by Michael Moore
  - A documentary by Michael Moore discussing how Capitalism operates in United States of America
  - Available through this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cK4H79j1I4A>
- *Inside Job*, by Charles Ferguson
  - A documentary about the mortgage crisis and Great Recession of 2008.
  - Available through this link: <https://watchdocumentaries.com/inside-job/>
- *Coded Bias*, Shalini Kantayya
  - A documentary that discusses how algorithms have racial and gender biases.
  - Available through Netflix
- *13<sup>th</sup>*, Ava DuVernay
  - A documentary that reviews and discusses the historical trajectory of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution of the United States on racial inequality and its contemporary implications.
  - Available on Netflix or <http://www.documentaryarea.tv/player.php?title=13th>
- *Black Mirror: Nosedive* (Season 3, Episode 1) by Joe Wright
  - A fictional short-story of a society that ranks people based on their social media presence.
  - Available through Netflix
- *Black Mirror: 15 Million Merits* (Season 1, Episode 2) Euros Lyn
  - A fictional short-story about commodification of labor, in a futuristic society with constant surveillance.
  - Available through Netflix
- *Food, Inc* by Robert Kenner
  - A documentary that examines how the industrial food system operates and its impact on the economy and the health of society.
  - Available through this link <https://watchdocumentaries.com/food-inc/>
- *Where to Invade Next?* by Michael Moore
  - A documentary about ideas that Michael Moore wants to “steal” and take back to America to improve our society.
  - Available through this link <https://www.documentarymania.com/player.php?title=Where+to+Invade+Next>



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- *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*, by Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk
    - A documentary that is the sequel to *An Inconvenient Truth*, an examination of the status of Climate Change.
  - *Miss Representation*, by Jennifer Siebel Newsom
    - A documentary that examines how women are represented in media.
    - Available through Kanopy
    -
2. In 500 word-two page-double spaced paper
- Type the title, director, and year of the film.
  - Summarize the film.
  - Answer the questions below.
3. Submission: In the Film Review Assignment tab in Course Menu.
- Click on Film Review Assignment # \_
  - Upload your document as a PDF or Word document.
4. Your grade will appear in My Grades

Questions:

1. What is this film about?
2. Why is this an important topic to understand?
  - a. Give two facts that you found important to understand.
3. What did you find most shocking, surprising, or interesting about the film?
4. Where is this event or issue occurring? (Specify city, country, region, etc.)
5. Does this story have any connection to your life or what we learned or discussed in class?

Additional specific questions for each film:

- Inside Job
  - What impact do you believe the 2008 Crash had on society?
  - How do think that the financial crisis should be handled?
- Coded Bias
  - What implications does this have on addressing discrimination?
  - How does this film discuss status and power?
- 13th
  - How would you change the mass incarceration system?
  - Do you think that mass incarceration is a new form of slavery?
  - Why do you think it prevails?
- Black Mirror: Nosedive
  - Compare meanings of Sphere of Influence as political, cultural, economic, military policy and to what it means in reference to the meritocracy of Nosedive.
- Food, Inc.
  - Is it important to know where our food comes from?



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- What roles do corporations play in the production of our food? Do you think they should have a say?
- Where to Invade Next?
  - Which country would you want to move to and why?
  - Which of the social policies discussed in the film should the United States adopt?
- An Inconvenient Sequel
  - How has our weather changed?
  - Who do you think is responsible for the changes? And Why?

Grading:

- Grading will be based on the following:
- Entire assignment displays the following requirements for each question/statement above:
- Demonstrates thoughtfulness, preparation, and accuracy.
- Reflects real understanding of the story and the issues.
- Follow directions.
- Is complete, neat, and includes a discussion about the entire film.
- Asks and answers a provocative (for discussion purposes) question.



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