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English 2450/Communications 2010  
Introduction to Film Studies

February 29, 2008  
Midterm Paper  
Due: March 21, 2008

This assignment is for a paper of approximately 2 to 3 pages.

Choose one film from the list below (they are all easily rentable, or available from the Undergraduate Library, on DVD). Your task is to give a brief analysis of the film, in terms of form, style, and themes. Consider in particular how the elements of filmmaking that we have discussed in class so far this semester are treated in whichever film you choose. You should write at least four paragraphs, considering the film in terms of:

- 1) Mise-en-scène: the sets, the lighting, the style of acting;
- 2) Cinematography: the kinds of shots (close-ups or long shots?), the use of framing, the degree of camera movement, the color scheme, the use of special effects;
- 3) Editing: the style and rapidity of editing, the use of continuity, montage sequences (if any), the ways in which the film sets up relations of cause and effect.
- 4) How the formal elements of the film that you have described in the previous paragraphs contribute to the overall meanings, themes, and feelings created by the film as a whole.

#### LIST OF FILMS

*The Godfather* (Francis Ford Coppola, 1972)  
*Scarface* (Brian De Palma, 1983)  
*Evil Dead II* (Sam Raimi, 1987)  
*Do the Right Thing* (Spike Lee, 1989)  
*Goodfellas* (Martin Scorsese, 1990)  
*Thelma and Louise* (Ridley Scott, 1991)  
*Jurassic Park* (Steven Spielberg, 1993)  
*Dumb and Dumber* (Peter Farrelly, 1994)  
*Forrest Gump* (Robert Zemeckis, 1994)  
*Pulp Fiction* (Quentin Tarantino, 1994)  
*Strange Days* (Kathryn Bigelow, 1995)  
*Titanic* (James Cameron, 1997)  
*American Beauty* (Sam Mendes, 1999)  
*The Sixth Sense* (M. Night Shyamalan, 1999)  
*The Matrix* (Andy and Larry Wachowski, 1999)  
*Magnolia* (Paul Thomas Anderson, 1999)  
*Traffic* (Steven Soderbergh, 2000)  
*Chicago* (Rob Marshall, 2002)  
*Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle* (Danny Leiner, 2004)  
*Million Dollar Baby* (Clint Eastwood, 2004)  
*Hostel* (Eli Roth, 2005)  
*Brokeback Mountain* (Ang Lee, 2005)  
*Crash* (Paul Haggis, 2005)  
*Madea's Family Reunion* (Tyler Perry, 2006)