

English 525 Eye/I Pledge Allegiance: Surveillance, Sexuality & "Sinema" in the Americas Post-1960

Professor William A. Nericcio | 2nd Analytical Imagination Challenge | Due Friday, April 26, 2013 @ noon, Arts and Letters 273 (or you can turn it in early on Thursday, April 25, 2013 in class @ 9:30am).

As with your first essay for this class, your essay should incorporate outside secondary research to supplement your primary close readings/analyses of the selected texts (film, novels, etc.) that you choose to explore--at the very least, try to incorporate at least three pieces of research gleaned from project muse, jstor, or, Old Gangster, by perusing bound journals in Love Library (if you have never done research this way, offline and in the stacks, I highly recommend it). The paper should run from 4 to 7 pages tops (illustrations DO NOT count against your page count, so feel free to include as many captioned images as you need to make your argument); additionally, the paper should have a clever title (glance at the titles in the PMLA, *American Quarterly*, *Salmagundi*, *The Velvet Light Trap*, *American Literature*, and other journals to get a sense of titles protocols/practices in literary/cinematic essays today. Most important (especially for graduating seniors), write about something you care about, something you value--don't just phone this one in... Have a blast and go for it!

1. The PMLA, John Kennedy Toole, and CONFEDERACY OF DUNCES

Making use of published criticism that has already appeared focused on Toole's *Confederacy of Dunces*, create an essay that explores your own intellectual interests with regard to Toole's singular comedic epic. Make sure at least ONE of the your outside critical resources comes from the PMLA*--in fact, try to use the PMLA as a model, as a guide, as an exemplar, as your craft/evolve your own analytical voice.

*The PMLA is the *Publications of the Modern Language Association*--those of you thinking of making literature a career should join the MLA as a graduate student (whether you are one now or not); more info here:
http://www.mla.org/join_new

2. The visions/hallucinations/renderings of the Americas to be found in the work of Eduardo Galeano and Gilbert Hernandez have some evocative overlaps while very real differences remain evident as well. Produce an engaging, illustrated comparative essay that addresses both similarities and conflicts when *Century of the Wind* and *Human Diastrophism* are juxtaposed.

3. Chuck Palahniuk and Gilbert Hernandez are two of the more gifted literary/graphic innovators to be making literary history in the 21st century. Craft an essay that speaks to specific elements of their projects that are in harmony. You may also use the work of Dan Clowes as an addition (or, in lieu of Hernandez) in crafting this essay.

4. Chris Ware and Salvador Plascencia both seem to fetishize paper--this fetish appears/evolves in different ways in these two American originals. Become a person of paper yourself as you try to creatively and evocatively address both the role of paper and the symbolic meaning of paper/textuality in the works of these two literary rock stars.

5. *Confederacy of Dunces* is very much a product of the cultural space of New Orleans. Author a paper that uses techniques associated with the critical school called "New Historicism" in crafting an essay on *Dunces* that folds in a sensitivity to Louisiana and beyond. Clueless!? No shame!

Start here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/722/09/>... or here:

<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory/newhistoricism/modules/introduction.html>

6. The 21st century is the renaissance age of Graphic Narrative in the United States. Using the work of Ware, Hernandez, and Clowes, craft a critical examination of comics as literature. The essay should feature carefully captioned illustrations and may focus on themes of interest to the writer (aka, YOU!).

7. Using two works from the latter half of the semester (post *Dunces*) craft a thesis of your own invention. Proposals for this work must be typed and printed and brought to me after class, Thursday, April 18, 2013. Once I put a check on it (a very likely turn of events), you are free to begin your project.