

Cinema 180: Introduction to World Cinema (25 points)

Final Comparative Essay: Ideology and the difficult path to a dignified Life

Our idea of a dignified life is informed by personal, familial, communal and national ideology. The characters in these two films are trying to live or achieve what they believe is a dignified life, but the decisions they make on their journey to achieving this goal may not agree with our ideological position(s).

In your final comparative essay you will write about the idea of a dignified life and its relationship to ideology, genre, realism, and interpellation in two films we watched this semester. As we discussed in class, you bring an ideological position to the reading of every film you watch and, in turn, every film communicates ideological positions that speak to or question your political, ethical or cultural (gender, sexuality, religious, and other) points of view. In short, when you watch your favorite and not so favorite films you're always engaged in this negotiation over ideological positions. For example, we cheer for a Luke Skywalker and not Darth Vader because we share in Luke's idea of the force as an instrument to do good in the galaxy. Vader's ideology, the dark side, is not as appealing to us because it reminds us of death, evil and everything that is wrong with the galaxy. But at times we find ourselves identifying with a character like Malik, In A Prophet, because we believe a child who has endured trauma deserves a chance to redeem himself. There are many ways our ideological (national, cultural, gender, sexual, religious) frameworks are validated or unsettled in the films **A Prophet, Billy Elliot, A Proposition or City of God**. **You are also encouraged to watch any others the films below and use it as one of your 2 films.**

Water

Once Where Warriors

Whale Rider

Moonlight

Eight Years a Slave

Hunger

You must do the following in your essay:

- 1) Identify and discuss the ideological position or positions that frame the story in **two films** we will discuss in class.
- 2) Identify and discuss the type of realism used in these two films. Why might the director use this type of realism and not some of other type?
- 3) Identify genre for each film and discuss why this genre works for the type of story being told. Could some other genre worked better?
- 4) Discuss what interpellation tells us about our investment in the ideological positions discuss in each film.

Keep in mind that color, filters, sound, lighting, and camera position is often used to hide ideology. In fact, editing has often been used to hide an ideological framework.

You must write 3 pages, 12-point font and you need to cite the pages from the text. Highlight the terminology or I will not read your essay. If you do not cite the pages from your text I will deduct points. If you reference any other film, book, or article cite it. I will check all your sources.

NO LATE ESSAY WILL BE ACCEPTED!
