

**DST/EDP/SOC 378: Media Illusions of Disability**  
**Film or Television Series Critique**

1. Select a film or television series that features people with disabilities or disability issues. For a collection of films that have characters with disabilities, go to <http://disabilitymovies.com>. There is also a list of films, documentaries, reality shows, and other television shows available at <http://media-and-disability.blogspot.com/2012/03/documentaries-tv-film-about-people-with.html>.
2. Prepare a presentation (~20-25 minutes) that addresses the questions below. The presentation can be in PowerPoint, Prezi, or any other format you choose. Students are responsible for setting up and running programs/electronic resources. The presentation may also include a short clip of the movie/series, for the purpose of supporting a point and/or promoting discussion. Students should attempt to engage the class in a discussion of the text, or even in short, small-group activities that enhance understanding of relevant issues.
3. The primary purpose of this presentation is to analyze how the film or television series represents (or misrepresents) people with disabilities and disability issues. Use some of these questions to guide your research, analysis, and presentation.
  - What is the plot of the movie or television series' episode(s)? Provide a brief synopsis.
  - Research the background of the film or television series. Is there any information that helps you better understand the producers, directors, screenplay writers, or other stakeholders' views on disability and people with disabilities? *For example, the film Million Dollar Baby was made by Clint Eastwood, who testified against provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act after being sued because his Mission Ranch Inn in California was inaccessible for patrons with disabilities.*
  - Which Model of Disability does the film or television series most closely align with? How did you determine this?
  - Who are the characters in the film or television series? How many of the characters are portrayed as disabled? How central are the characters with disabilities to the story? Are the people cast in the film disabled actors/actresses or are they temporarily able-bodied actors/actresses?
  - What are your manifest and/or latent analyses of this text?
  - Hunt (1991) identified 10 stereotypes that the media uses to portray people with disabilities:
    - The disabled person as pitiable or pathetic
    - An object of curiosity or violence
    - Sinister or evil

- The “super cripp”
- As atmosphere
- Laughable
- His/her own worst enemy
- As a burden
- As non-sexual
- Being unable to participate in daily life

Does the film or television series portray characters with disabilities using any of these stereotypes? How so? If you believe these stereotypes were not used, then how are people with disabilities portrayed?

- What disabilities do the characters have (e.g., cerebral palsy, schizophrenia, Down’s syndrome, blindness)? Research the specific disability (or disabilities). Does the film accurately portray the disability or does it misrepresent it? *For example, some films and television shows portray people with psychiatric disabilities as violent and dangerous when in fact they are unlikely to hurt others.*
- Overall, how does the film or television series represent people with disabilities and disability issues? Does the film or television series reinforce or resist ableism? How so?

### **Grading Criteria – 350 Points – 25% of Total Grade**

A = 95 - 99.9% = 333 - 350 points  
 A- = 90 - 94.99% = 315 - 332 points  
 B+ = 87 - 89.99% = 305 - 314 points  
 B = 83 - 86.99% = 291 - 304 points  
 B- = 80 - 82.99% = 280 - 290 points  
 C+ = 77 - 79.99% = 270 - 279 points  
 C = 73 - 76.99% = 256 - 269 points  
 C- = 70 - 72.99% = 245 - 255 points

*See Grading Rubric on following page for detailed Grading Criteria.*

**Film or Television Series Critique Grading Rubric**

<p align="center"><b>Presentation Time</b></p>	<p align="center">Presentation reasonably met time requirement of ~20-25 minutes.  70 Points</p>	<p align="center">Presentation came close to meeting time requirement.  60 Points</p>	<p align="center">Presentation was short in relation to time requirement, therefore not allowing adequate coverage of material related to disability and disability issues, nor in-depth understanding on the part of listeners.  55 Points</p>
<p align="center"><b>Critique and Media Analysis</b></p>	<p align="center">Critique provided background for visual text, and explored disability and disability issues with substantial critical thought and support.  70 Points</p>	<p align="center">Critique introduced the visual text adequately and addressed some issues related to disability.  60 Points</p>	<p align="center">Little to no critique was provided; the text was essentially summarized.  55 Points</p>
<p align="center"><b>Sources</b></p>	<p align="center">Presenter drew from sources discussed in class as well as outside sources.  70 Points</p>	<p align="center">Presenter drew from sources discussed in class or outside sources.  60 Points</p>	<p align="center">Presenter drew from very limited sources without clear connection to course content.  55 Points</p>
<p align="center"><b>Engaging Audience</b></p>	<p align="center">Presenter engaged co-learners in meaningful discussion of material relevant to the text and disability issues.  70 Points</p>	<p align="center">Presenter attempted to engage co-learners in discussion of material relevant to the visual text and disability issues, but discussion was limited and could have been more meaningful.  60 Points</p>	<p align="center">Presenter did not involve co-learners in discussion or group activity to strengthen understanding of issues.  55 Points</p>
<p align="center"><b>Citing Sources and APA Format</b></p>	<p align="center">Source materials were cited correctly in APA format.  70 Points</p>	<p align="center">Source materials were cited, although not exact in following APA format.  60 Points</p>	<p align="center">Source materials were unclear or not cited.  55 Points</p>
<p align="center"><b>Subtotal TOTAL</b></p>			