

AAS 253 / Blacks in Film / SPRING 2020

# TERM PAPER PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

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**WARNING:** You will lose points for failing to follow any one or more of the instructions provided in this document (including the possibility of getting an F). Therefore, do NOT commence work on your paper before you have thoroughly familiarized yourself with all instructions in this document.

## Date Due

To be e-mailed to me no later than **December 7, 2020 (mid-night)**. Penalty for late papers: one grade level down for each day it is late

## Instructions

### Read this before you proceed further:

1. Your term paper must be written entirely by you.
2. The score for your paper will be averaged with Test 5.
3. This document contains live links to internet material; therefore, access it while online.
4. References to Wikipedia or any other encyclopedia is NOT permitted. (However, you can consult these materials while doing your research—you just can't use them as references.)
5. You will lose points for failing to follow any one or more of these instructions (including the possibility of getting an F).
6. Your essay must reflect the references you provide. Therefore, do not choose your references willy-nilly.
7. You may have to sit for a test based on the references you provide in your paper.
8. Study the slide image on the right.



## Topic

Critically analyze these three films, which you can download from the **Class Films List** page at elegantbrain.com (which you should be very familiar with by now), (a) *The 13<sup>th</sup>*; (b) *Mr. Church*; and (c) *Institutional versus Interpersonal Racism*, from the perspective of the following thesis,

The answer to the question is it possible to *completely* eliminate racism in a capitalist democratic society, is that no matter what one wishes, it is impossible for a single individual or even a group of individuals or even a movement to eliminate institutional racism completely. It is, however, possible to eliminate interpersonal racism at the individual level, especially in capitalist democratic societies, depending upon place and circumstances. In other words, the best one can hope for, in a society such as this one, is the creation of what may be called "spaces of racial respite" where enlightened and decent individuals overcome racism/ethnicism at the individual interpersonal level to create a fair and friendly environment for everyone in those spaces.

## Format

- (a) **Length:** No less than 12 pages—not including the cover page and the references cited page.
- (b) **Font:** Times Roman 12 pt.
- (c) **Spacing:** double spacing throughout (except for the cover page and the reference page).
- (d) **Margins:** one inch all around.
- (e) **Title of your paper:** Institutional Racism versus Interpersonal Racism.
- (f) **Electronic file format:** MS Word (or equivalent)

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an offense and it is punishable by death (which in this instance will mean an F grade for the entire course). I may also seek additional punishment, such as asking that your transcript be permanently annotated that you were caught plagiarizing material in your paper. Plagiarism refers to the use of **ideas and/or words** of someone else without giving credit in order to pass them off as your own. In other words, for every main idea, fact, etc., and for every direct quotation there must be an appropriate reference provided. Please see this short video on how to avoid plagiarism: <https://vimeo.com/91541104>

## Research

1. Your research must be based **exclusively** on the extensive materials available at the **Materials for Course Assignments Depository** at elegantbrain.com

2. The specific sections of the depository you are **required** to consult are:
- (a) *Readings-Packets* 1 through 7, available via PART A of the depository.
  - (b) *Glossary of Course-related Terms* available via PART A of the depository.
  - (c) *Timeline of the Racialization of United States*, available via PART A of the depository.
  - (d) Items **A6**; **A11**; and **A19** of instructor's notes—all available via PART L of the depository.

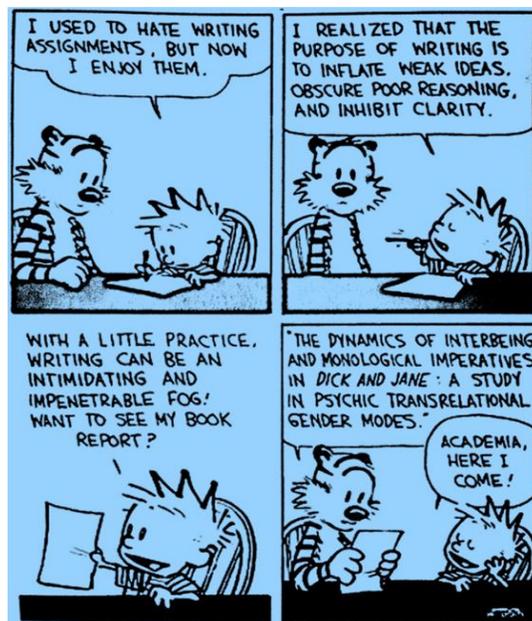
## Required References

- (a) All references you provide **must** be cited in your paper.
- (b) You must provide a minimum of **fifteen** references.
- (c) All your references must come from PART A, Readings-Packets 1 through 7 of the **Materials for Course Assignments Depository** at elegantbrain.com
- (d) You are NOT allowed to use the instructor's notes as references.
- (e) All references must be listed on the references page; and number each reference item in the list.
- (f) References must be listed in this style: *Title of reference*, plus provide link to the reference item from the Depository. (Yes, we are NOT using here any usual style format—such as MLA, APA, etc.) Example: supposing you cited an item titled "The Re-Segregation of Public Education" then in your References page it would appear as

### 1. "The Re-Segregation of Public Education"

<http://www.elegantbrain.com/edu4/classes/readings/333readings/resegregation.pdf>

- (g) Citations format: Cite references using the **in text-citation** format (see Term paper guide on what in-text citation is) using this style: **(p. xx, Reference Z)**, where p. equals page number within the article you are citing, and Z equals the reference number for the reference listed in your reference page.



## Structure of Paper

Every *academic* paper has a coherent *structure*, based on logic (and a long tradition). Many students find it difficult to come up with one when they are doing their last-minute "stay-up-all-night" papers. To make things really, really easy, I have created a structure for you. Therefore, you **must** write your paper using the following structure. (You will lose many points for failure to do so.)

I. **Your introduction to the term paper** (consult the term paper guide on what an introduction does).

(a) State the problem. (b) Define institutional racism. (c) Provide evidence of the existence of institutional racism today in the U.S. (d) Explain why it is, or it is not possible to eliminate institutional racism.

II. **The body of your essay** (consult the term paper guide on what goes into the body).

Analyze the three assigned films on the basis of the problem you have described in the Introduction. ← This should be the longest section of your paper.

III. **Your conclusion** (consult the term paper guide on what the conclusion does).

Indicate what factors can promote the elimination of *interpersonal* racism.

## Grading of Paper

While grading your paper, I will be comparing your paper to those of others in class to determine your grade.

*Approximate* points allocation for your paper:

- 25% for the discussion section;
- 25% for the conclusion;
- 25% for the remainder; and
- 25% for the references (which must be in the style indicated above) determined **in terms of their relevance** to your paper..

**NOTE:** All points allocation will be final; I do not negotiate my grading.