

Critical Reflections (20% of the ePortfolio)

REFLECTIONS MUST BE POSTED TO YOUR EPORTFOLIO <u>BEFORE</u> THE START OF CLASS.
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Everyone must write short (300-500 words), critical reflections on **three** of the assigned readings and **ONE** movie. During the semester Students must submit **four in total**, but may submit more and select the grade from the top four.

Reflections are not summaries. Students will pick out one or more issues from the reading to analyze. This requires imagination and critical thinking (see chapter 1 of Baillie for an explanation). Start by finding the argument, or thesis, of the paper, then discuss the following: is this position explained and supported? Does it make sense? Why or why not? Is there enough evidence to make the argument convincing? Why or why not? Does the paper contain any ideas or findings that are especially interesting or surprising? These questions provide a good starting point, but each critical reflection does not need to answer every question.

Each critical reflection will be graded with either a check, check-plus, or check minus (and comments will be added to the ePortfolio). Check-plus is excellent, check is ok, and check-minus is an indication that you should seek some extra help. After the four reflections have been submitted you will receive a grade on all of the reflections as a whole, which takes into account your improvement over time as well as your analytical contributions.

GRADE	CRITERIA
Exemplary (A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offers a clear analysis (identify and engage in depth with key components of the paper, <i>e.g.</i>, provide a critique of the main argument)• Shows imagination and critical thinking• Demonstrates a commitment to improving the quality of critical reflections
Proficient (B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifies interesting aspects of the reading (<i>e.g.</i>, describe that something is interesting, but not offer an adequate explanation as to why the point is interesting)• Includes more summary than analysis
Partially Proficient (C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposes a new resource• Minimal creativity
Below Standard (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides a superficial summary of the writing with no analysis
Incomplete (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not evident that the student did the reading