Film History Paper
Topic and Guidelines
Film History III: Contemporary World Cinema
Due: May 25th
Prof. Will Luers
(luers@pdx.edu)

Please follow these guidelines for your paper:

• I am interested in your own ideas and observations. Historical facts do not have to be cited, but if you quote or paraphrase ideas from the textbook and/or other sources, please cite them.
• Your paper should be 3-5 pages (750-1000 words), typed, double-spaced, 12-point type, margins no bigger than an inch, indent paragraphs, no spaces between paragraphs.
• Spell-check and proofread for grammatical errors. Please take the time to make your ideas clear.
• You are encouraged to use images (stills) to illustrate your ideas.

Choose one of the following four topics:

• Analyze the narrative style of a film (made within the last 30 years). Is the film constructed primarily in the Classical Hollywood Style? If not, how does the film subvert, deconstruct, ignore or play with the classical style? Does the film use techniques of Direct Cinema? Are the flow of events linear or out of sequence? How are montage (fast-paced editing) and/or deep focus mise en scene used? In what ways do these stylistic elements help to tell a story?

• Compare and contrast two films by a director we have studied in class.

• Write an analytical paper on the historical context of a particular film. How is the narrative style of the film innovative for its time? What is the social context of the film?