**Helpful Hints for Papers**

It is better to be prepared.  Make sure you start thinking about the movie you would like to write about. Each paper will be a 3-4 page, double-spaced, 12 pt. font paper analyzing any ONE film that we have watched in class. We want your analysis of the film **on issues relating to planning, design, environment, culture, and/or society**. On Blackboard, a list of issues is listed for each film. You can also look at the guidelines for this paper under the "Assignments" tab and see example papers posted on Blackboard.

If you want, you can send your paper (7-10 days before due date) to be reviewed by a TA.

Remember each paper is worth 1/4 of your grade (including attendance).  Here are some DOs and DON'Ts to help you get a good grade, these are also listed on the Course Information tab on Blackboard, along with writing guidelines. We will hold your papers up to these standards.

DO:

* WRITE a paper with a clear structure, that has an introduction, body and conclusion.
* THINK critically about the issues portrayed in the movies and read the supporting articles on Blackboard to get a better grip on issues.
* CHECK the guidelines and the example papers posted on Blackboard's Course Information tab to have a better idea of what a good paper looks like.
* CITE your sources if you chose to use other information - Otherwise it will be considered as plagiarism
* BECOME FAMILIAR with the term "Urban Planning" if you need to.
* USE proper language, grammar and punctuation, if you are unsure about your writing skills use the resources available at ASU, such as the Writing Center.
* PROOF-READ and use spell check.
* CONTACT us with any questions or concerns.

DON'T:

* DON'T use 1st person or statements that refer to your personal opinion, for example: "I think", "I believe", "I noticed", "In my opinion", etc. This is an analysis paper of issues portrayed in the films, NOT your personal opinion of the movie
* DON'T use 2nd person statements, for example: "YOU have to", "When YOU see..." or anything containing the word "YOU" / "YOUR". These kind of statements make your papers sound informal and less than academic.
* DON'T summarize the films, we've all seen them, get straight to the issues analysis part.
* DON'T review the films, that is not the purpose of the paper.
* DON'T use contractions (he's, it's, didn't, etc.) Spell it out (he is, it is, did not, etc)
* DON'T waste your time writing about cinematographic styles or the "planning" of the movie itself. This class is called Urban Planning 200: Cities in Cinema, therefore any papers addressing these topics will automatically receive a failing grade, since it will be assumed that the student has ignored the guidelines and completely missed the point of the class itself.
* DON'T stretch your papers with unusual letter fonts, spacing or plain rambling. We will discount points for any of these things.

Hope you take advantage of these tips to help you write a better paper!