Holistic Grading Rubric for Film R&C

Developed by Lisa Jacobson and Berkeley Film GSIs

A — Excellent. Makes a sustained, debatable, and original argument that directly addresses the assignment and is based on detailed evidence from the chosen film and texts. The argument unfolds in a clear and logical manner throughout the paper, incorporating evidence to support a focused thesis while also considering its larger implications. Includes close analysis of cinematic details from the film. Writing is lucid and engaging, with no grammatical or syntactical mistakes that impede reading. Research demonstrates a thorough commitment to finding quality sources, a direct engagement with cited material, and a strong command of citation style guidelines.

B — Good. Makes an argument that addresses the assignment and goes beyond mere description but may not be particularly focused, original, or debatable. May stray into generalizations when considering the broader implications. The essay may be somewhat loosely organized, or it may too rigidly adhere to a set template such as the 5-paragraph form. Brings in evidence from the chosen film and texts with some attention to detail. Evidence from film and texts may be left to speak for itself at times, rather than incorporated into the overarching argument. Writing is clear overall, with mistakes that may slightly impede reading or understanding. Research includes mostly quality sources, but there may be some lack of engagement with cited material or issues following citation guidelines.

C — Passable. Makes an argument that only somewhat addresses the assignment and is descriptive rather than debatable, or is more generally debatable but not based on evidence from the film. May consist of numerous, somewhat related ideas loosely strung together rather than structured in a single argument. References to the film and texts are superficial, with little or no attention to cinematic detail. Frequently makes use of generalizations or goes off topic. Research relies upon poorly chosen or non-scholarly sources, and does not consistently adhere to citation guidelines.

D — Unsatisfactory. Does not engage with the material, barely addresses the assignment, and demonstrates no real analysis of film or texts. Scholarly sources are poorly chosen or non- existent. Citation guidelines are ignored.

F — Fail. The student does not submit work, or work demonstrates no relationship to the assignment or course materials.