

**RHCS 105: Media, Culture, and Identity  
Spring 2016**

**Short Essay 2**

Due Thursday, February 25

100 points or 10% of final grade

Submitted via Blackboard prior to class

Assignment Description:

Based on his book bearing the same name, the Media Education Foundation-sponsored *Guyland: Where Boys Become Men* expands upon sociologist Michael Kimmel's research into the culture surrounding men and masculinities. As Don Sabo, Founder and Director of the Center for Research on Physical Activity, wrote,

*Guyland* is much more than a critique of traditional masculinity...Michael Kimmel's insights and lots of poignant media clips combine to explain how so many young males seem to be "deer in the headlights" of historical changes in gender relations, work, family, and sexuality...

For your assignment, you will analyze a subset of these "poignant media clips." Among the media clips featured in the film are brief segments from a variety of television programs and films, including the following:

*Animal House*  
*Blue Valentine*  
*The Godfather*  
*Old School*

*The Grand Budapest Hotel*  
*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*  
*The Sandlot*  
*The Wolf of Wall Street*

In your brief paper of approximately 3 typed pages, you will screen and analyze one (1) of the above films, considering the extent to which the film addresses what psychologists have termed the "four basic rules of manhood." (These "rules" are mentioned in the film.) Your paper must do the following:

1. Provide an introduction that gives a brief overview of the film *Guyland* and presents the "four basic rules of manhood." The introduction must conclude with a thesis statement. The thesis should answer the following question: To what extent does [YOUR CHOSEN MOVIE] treat, discuss, and/or complicate the four basic rules of manhood?
2. Provide a brief summary of your selected film. [Emphasis on *brief*.]
3. Explain, using specifics from your selected film, how it addresses the four basic rules of manhood. Given the length of the paper, students will need to be strategic in their selection of evidence. To navigate this constraint, use at least three (3) examples from the film.
4. Incorporate key concepts, terms, and readings from our course.

The paper must include a properly formatted works cited list or bibliography following either APA or Chicago Manual of Style (in addition to the 2-3 typed pages). For guidance on these citation styles, see the link to the Library's Citing Sources guide on the Assignments page on the course blog (note: It is underneath the Campus Participation Assignment, so be sure to scroll down!).

The assignment will be graded out of 100 points. The assignment should be submitted **via Blackboard before class on Thursday, February 25** and adhere to the following format:

- Typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman Font (or equivalent)
- Double spaced
- Include page numbers
- Pledged [Write “I pledge” either at the top or at the very end of your paper.]
- A title that is creative (and not “Paper 1”)
- “Normal” margins (approximately 1 – 1.1 inches)

**Short Paper 2 Rubric**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>
“A” range or 90-100 points	Paper is conceptually sophisticated, engaged in a substantive way with course material. Considers film’s engagement with four basic rules of manhood; Thought-provoking; Paper draws upon material to make a point that extends beyond the material; Paper presents a succinct summary of the films and does not rely too heavily on summary; Clear, easy to read style; Excellent use of examples; Includes properly formatted works cited list/bibliography as well as in-text citations/footnotes where relevant.
“B” range or 80-89 points	Paper clearly presents student’s interpretation and is engaged with course material; Makes solid points; Includes four basic rules of manhood; Incorporates class material and makes connections but may lack development; Paper may rely too heavily on summary without integrating analysis of films; Organized and well edited; Good use of examples; Includes works cited list/bibliography as well as in-text citations/footnotes, however, may include some errors in style.
“C” range or 70-79 points	Paper reflects superficial engagement with material; Makes shallow contribution to conversation; May not answer all 4 component parts of assignment; May not address four basic rules of manhood as noted by the film; Some typos; Vague use of examples; Paper is overly general, seizing personal experience; If works cited list/bibliography is included, it consists of multiple significant errors.
“D” range or 60-69 points	Paper is irrelevant to topic; Unclear, disorganized, and tangential to assignment guidelines; Misuses course materials; Paper relies on clichés and generalities; Includes typos; Does not include works cited list/bibliography nor does it include in-text citations/footnotes where appropriate.
“F” range or 59 and below points	Paper is irrelevant to topic; Makes no attempt to draw upon course materials; Paper relies on generalities; Paper is confusing and unedited; Does not include works cite list/bibliography nor does it include appropriate in-text citations or footnotes.