

**FILM 162 • WINTER 2010 • STUDIES IN AUTHORSHIP: MIKE LEIGH • Prof. Gustafson**

PAPER #3: see description below

DUE: THURSDAY MARCH 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. In class. If your project has "special needs", please let Irene or Alex know so you can get it to us safely.

In an attempt to "reconstruct" (or newly imagine, or represent) Mike Leigh's authorship, your project will have two components:

1. an "essay" or theoretical piece of writing [2-3 pages]
2. a "material" component of some kind [5-6 pages or its equivalency]

**"ESSAY"**

This part of the project will reflect on the material component, developing the argument that you have tried to display or enact in that work. It should incorporate discrete, contextualized theoretical references to texts from class or from your own research, as well as precise visual analysis of the work of Mike Leigh

For example, if within the "material component" you are implementing "ironic naturalism" as the chief aesthetic and political strategy, then you should contextualize and define the term "ironic naturalism" —through the readings and through an example from one of the films we've watched in class. Demonstrate how you understand "ironic naturalism" is functioning in your project.

Collaborations must be limited to (3) participants. Each member of the collaborative team must submit their own "essay."

This essay should be 2-3 pages (typed, normal font and margins, etc.), with a properly formatted Works Cited page.

**"MATERIAL COMPONENT"**

This component might take the following form (this is not an exhaustive list!):

- 1) a "screenplay" [if you choose this option, it should be give the reader a vivid visual and aural sense of the completed film. i.e.— your screenplay should include detailed descriptions of what the viewer will see and hear]. Your "screenplay" can be for a TV show, a performance, a "narrative", etc.
- 2) a short video based on your original screenplay
- 3) a "remake" of one of the films we have seen: this could incorporate images from the original works or it could recreate those images; in video form, or still image essay
- 4) an alternative "Mike Leigh" course syllabus
- 5) a "manifesto" advocating for a practice of the type of cinema that Leigh produces

The purpose of this project is to reconstruct Leigh's "authorship" through a creative, rigorous engagement with their films and the scholarship on their work. This assignment should be "serious experimentation." You will need to be able to justify why you took a particular approach.