



English 219: Film as Text
Final Paper Assignment

For your final paper you are to select a single episode from *Heart of Darkness* which closely resembles a single episode from *Apocalypse Now*. The similarity between these two episodes might be based on a resonance between the tones, settings, symbolism, or the thematic and narrative functions of the two. Once you have chosen the twin episodes, you are then to examine how one is translated from the literary text to the cinematic text. Use terminology and concepts we discussed in class, whenever applicable.

Questions, which you should find useful to consider, include: How are standard elements of literary fiction (point-of-view, description, summary, dialogue, internal monologue, etc.) translated into standard elements of film (setting, subjects, composition, editing, sound, etc.)? How do these episodes function within the narrative structure of both texts? Does the film change the symbolic implications of the episode in translation/transposition? Is the thematic role of the cinematic episode significantly different than the role its counterpart plays in the literary text? Etc.

You should first locate the position of your two episodes within the context of their corresponding texts, so your reader has a clear idea which episodes you will be analyzing. Then you should explain the analogous nature of the two episodes, before performing your comparison. When comparing the two episodes, try to concentrate your attention on close readings of scenes within the episode (three or less is best). Make sure you synthesize your main points into a logically consistent, insightful conclusion. The introduction is entirely up to you, but don't tarry too long before getting to work.

As long as your writing is coherent and you support your claims, feel free to be creative and to make unconventional interpretations in the course of your analysis. I ask only that when you quote from *Heart of Darkness* you give page numbers, and include, on an attached page, the bibliographic information for the specific edition of *Heart of Darkness* that you used. Regarding both the film and the novella, make sure you identify each scene before you discuss it. Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, and five to seven full pages in length, not including the bibliography page. Have fun.

