

READING JOURNALS

First and foremost, be clear as to what this exercise is *NOT*. It is not a series of personal Cliffs' Notes or plot summaries/character sketches. Nor is it a personal diary, or a record of tastes and impressions.

What it is, is a series of *analytic* encounters with texts on the syllabus, responses to matters raised in discussion, and cybernetic conversations with your classmates.

Each Friday (if this proves an impracticable day of the week, we'll adjust it) I will expect you to post on the class mailing list (details on the address to follow) about a page of commentary. Not (to recapitulate) summary, not impressionism, not a personal diary of your life -- *analysis*, based on specific aspects of specific texts, or on specific points raised in class.

You are not expected to comment on every item on the syllabus. If you find yourself engaging in a series of commentaries on one point or text, fine and dandy.

By "text" I mean both written materials and films.

A primary aspect of the grading of this exercise will derive from the regularity with which you complete it in timely fashion. Whatever you do, don't bother asking, toward the end of the term, if you can "make up" work you missed. That defeats the entire point of the system, which is to enlarge the circle of the conversation.

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21L.430 / CMS.920 Popular Narrative: Masterminds
Fall 2004

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