Film Analysis Report

I want you to be able to apply the ideas we talk about in this room to the world out there. But how can I assess this? We don't share the same experiences, so I can't see whether you really understand your life in a "deeper way" from learning social psychology. One way we can share the same experience is by watching the same films. This gives us some common reference points – common characters, behaviors, and relationships – that you can write about in the light of what you have learned in this class. I suspect many, if not all, in this classroom have watched an astronomical amount of video (e.g., TV, film) up to this point in your life. Thus, I expect your 'video literacy' to be well developed, and your ability to interpret and to critically analyze what you watch to be well honed.

Film analysis reports are short, concise, thoughtful reactions to films. You will rent ONE of the films I suggest somewhere and watch at home, or wherever you have access to a DVD player.

Each report will be a maximum of ONE PAGE, with no more than 500 words on that page. Print your reports single-spaced. Otherwise, you won't be able to fit 500 words on one page.

At the top of the paper you should put the following information as shown below:

Social psychology theme(s) X (Y, Z, etc.) in:
The title of the film you are analyzing
By your name, your email address

For example:

Racial stereotypes in:
Do The Right Thing
By Chris Ware, jimmycorrigan@ku.edu

Each report will be graded on a scale of 0 to 15. You will get a minimum of two points if you turn in a report in the required format, on time, and that demonstrates to my satisfaction that you watched the video attentively. You will get more points if you show that you can interpret characters, behaviors, and relationships from the video in the light of new things you have learned in the class.

Watch ONE of the films below:
(1) "Southern Comfort" by Kate Davis (2001)
(2) "La Promesse" (1996) by Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne
(3) "Fruitvale Station" (2013) by Ryan Coogler
(4) "Hoop Dreams" (1994) by Steve James
(5) "Elephant" (2003) by Gus van Sant

The paper is DUE on October 16th (Thursday) in class. Information about each of these movies can be found on the website called the Internet Movie Database (IMDb).