

## Geog-1110 -- Guidelines for Movie Reviews – Spring 2020

First, all movie reviews must include the following information at the top of the review:

1. The name of documentary or film
2. Medium used to view film (History Channel, DVD rental, Netflix, Youtube...)
3. Approximate length of film
4. Classmates who watched with you (this is absolutely OK, feel free to organize viewing parties)
5. Your star ranking for the film (out of a total possible 5 stars)

The body of the review must be between 500 and 1000 words long. You can use any format you like. I actually enjoy reading these because so many students take different approaches to the assignment. Please write in full sentences and use proper English. Avoid bullet lists, tables, and figures if possible (only because I want to encourage you to write). Please keep your review under 1000 words. I have over 240 of these to read in the next few weeks.

As far as the assignment goes, I want to know what you think of the film. Consider the following questions as possible approaches to this assignment: Is it a well-made documentary? Is the narrator good? Are the geologic examples appropriate? Is it primarily shock and awe disaster film or is it a legitimate documentary that teaches the viewer in a meaningful way? Eventually, your class reading should give you enough of a background to be able to tell if any aspect of the science is suspect. I'd really like to see some of you catch a few major science blunders. These blunders are more common than you may think and I think it is fun to find them. Please keep in mind that other approaches are also considered valid and are strongly encouraged! I want to encourage originality and creativity in this assignment.

I grade your movie reviews based on three criteria: 1) I want to be sure that you actually watched the documentary. 2) I want to see some intelligent discussion of the topic. This tells me if you understood the documentary. 3) I want to make sure the documentary you watched was consistent with the topic (earthquakes, tsunamis...). I have prepared a grading rubric in BlazeVIEW to use as a grading tool. I suggest you take a look at the rubric before you write your review.

Please submit all reviews as MS-Word files. You must use the "dropbox" features in BlazeVIEW to submit your review. I'll have a separate dropbox for each assignment.

The last movie review is a "geoflick" review. Geoflicks are regular theatrical movies that are focused on geologic events, usually some type of disaster. Some examples are: 2012, Volcano, Dantes Peak, The Core, and Jurassic Park. This is a web page with a few more ideas: <http://reelgeology.blogspot.com/>. I'd prefer you select a movie that deals with some kind of geohazards like an earthquake, tsunami, or volcano. The SciFi channel has tons of really bad geoflicks, you could probably write a novel on one of those. Most geoflicks take great liberties with the basic science that forms the basis for the plot. What I hope to see from this assignment is that you've learned enough to recognize where these movies drift from reality and move towards fiction. This is where you get to show me that you can apply what you've learned in this class. I also hope this will give you some self-confidence in your understanding of this subject.