

Film Critique: *Tortilla Soup*

This is NOT a typical film review in that it is not thumbs up/down kind of writing.

This is more of an analysis and close reading of particular scenes, focusing as much as possible on DETAIL and how it relates to aspects of our course themes. The names of the actors and director are not important. Just the names of the characters and their situation, so you can be precise.

Notice too how any particular cinematic techniques enhance the telling of the story and the themes. It is, after all, a film. And telling a story in film is not exactly the same as just using words to tell a tale. That is, pay attention to how the story is told, what the camera focuses on and why, and the way the scenes are cut or edited to present the characters and themes.

Assignment: Select any **THREE scenes** from the film *Tortilla Soup* and dissect them in light of what you have learned thus far about cooking, food and feasting from the class discussion, but also the essay “Meal as Metaphor” by Peter Farb. The scenes you select may come from any part of the film. You should select scenes, however, that allow you to make **different points** about the themes of the film. That is, not the same point over and over. Use your notes from the Viewing Guide. You are not expected to quote from the film, but you are expected to discuss **detail**.

Citing Farb: You are required to cite Farb at least twice in your critique as you are discussing your interpretations. Use the parenthetical citation method of MLA style when citing Farb. You do NOT need to create a Works Cited page, as our sources are either Farb or the film, and our reader already knows this. If, however, you use any additional sources, you will need to cite them on a Works Cited page in correct MLA style. Using other sources is OK, but they must be cited fully and correctly.

Length: 3-4 pages, typed, double-spaced in MLA format; Font, Times/Times New Roman: 12. No special title page, please. Give your review a title that serves as a window into your main ideas, not just the name of the film or the assignment.

• Detailed Outline due in class for **REQUIRED peer review: Th, Jan 29.**

Outline means organized list of points you want to raise, and the corresponding details you plan to discuss to illustrate those points, from the film. It is, of course, subject to change, but as detailed as you can make it. It does not have to be typed, but that is preferred. It should not be “thrown together” at the last minute. I will also take a look at the outlines, and will be glad to meet with you during the week to discuss your ideas and/or your paper.

Strongly recommended: Take your outline and draft to **The Write Place, G103**, for review.

• Final version is due, in a folder with your **outline** AND your **notes** on the Viewing Guide: **Tu, Feb 3**