

### **Module two paper assignment**

You need to do two paper assignments in the course. If you choose this one, it is due at the end of module two.

**First, find a situation where people are engaged in face to face interaction. It will be the data for your dramaturgical analysis.** The situation may be one that you observe in your everyday life or it may be fictional (i.e., an interaction described in a novel, or enacted in a play, movie, sit-com). The situation should not, however, be one that you have imagined for the sake of this assignment. It should not be composite of many interactions. Making up a hypothetical example will result in a weaker paper. I.e. a paper that is not clearly based on an actual interaction will not receive a grade greater than 45/50. Briefly introduce this interaction. You will analyze it in more detail in the next section.

**Second, do a dramaturgical analysis of how the actors seek to shape the definition of the situation.** Some questions you might want to address in your analysis: How do the actors engage in impression management? More specifically, how do they try to manipulate their appearance? How do they select their words and facial expression? What do they reveal about themselves? What do they hide? Do they manipulate their surroundings? Do the actor's support each other with protective practices or do they try to undermine each other? To what extent are the actors' impressions believed by others? You do not need to answer all of the above questions. Select the ones that yield the most interesting insights for your case. You might be tempted to write a three page paper. But there are a number of details for you to describe. A short paper is a weak paper and will be graded accordingly. A four page paper might also be a weak paper, of course.

**Third, what is the value of this sort of analysis?** How, concretely, could a person use this type of analysis? A person could answer this question in a sentence or two. But it would not be a very good answer. Think this answer through: how could this type of analysis be used, specifically. Who could benefit and how could they benefit?

#### **Formatting:**

For citations, use APA style. Go with a 12 point Times New Roman font. Double spaced with one inch margins. Each of the subsections of the paper should get its own sub-heading to organize your paper and improve its readability.

Save your report in Word and use the following file naming convention:

M1\_paper\_your-first-name\_your-last-name.doc

Be sure to use the underscores as you see in the example.