Foreign Film Critique

Use the following format for your international film review; answers must be typed below the questions and all questions must appear in full on your final copy. You can use this document as your template. Pay careful attention to the required number of words for those questions that have them. Failure to follow the instructions here and on your syllabus will result in a substantially low grade. Minimal answers poorly written are a D grade or less. Elaboration of points, excellent arguments, and good writing garner higher grades.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_\_Alix Heath\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class time period \_\_2:30-3:50\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1) Title of Film Trolljegeren (Troll Hunter)

2) Year of release: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2010\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3) Language of original film: Norwegian

4) Director: André Øvredal

5) Actors: Otto Jesperson, Robert Stoltenberg, Glenn Erland Tosterud, Johanna Mørck, Tomas Alf Larsen, Urmila Berg-Domaas, Hans Morten Hansen, Knut Nærum, and Torunn Lødemel Stokkeland

6) Give a brief plot *summary* (should be 150-250 words and not be plagiarized from the web):

College students decided to follow around an unlicensed bear poacher. Turns out the “bear poacher” is actually a troll hunter. The students are allowed to travel along with him as long as they do as he says and they are not Christian. (The trolls can smell Christian blood.) It’s the troll hunter’s job to hunt trolls who come out of their boundaries. The government then covers it up with bears and even at one point they said that a tornado came through. Anyway, the students travel with guys and do a video documentary of his job. The government is not ok with this. They become very upset and tell the students not to film. The students do it anyway. One the students got was even killed because he is Christian and did not tell anybody about it. The others are either captured by the government or killed. We don’t know they vanished after they helped kill a mountain troll.

***7) Analyze*** the social and philosophical issues the film addresses. Make sure you include the point of view of the movie, the context of the movie, what audience the movie is targeting, and why. (i.e. you should address and reflect upon the “argument” or “meaning” of the work. This should be analysis, not just summary of issues in the movie) {your answer should be at least 500 words}

This movie has many different points of views and disputes between different groups, like: the government against the students, Christians against the trolls, the trolls against the troll hunter, and reality between mythological creatures. There are social conflicts and physiological issues here.

The students are trying to understand the truth of the world they live in. By going after what they thought to be a bear poacher, then figuring he is a troll hunter. I think finding him and the trolls are a piece to the puzzle of life. They are following a man who has dedicated his life to troll hunting. He understands what is little known about the trolls. The students wanted to understand as well. There are mysteries in life and in history that we do not understand; like the myths and stories that came from our ancestors. It makes you wander what they were thinking when they came up with absurd stories and monsters. Maybe there was something that gave them the idea that something out of this world would actually exist.

The trolls eat Christians; they can smell the blood of a Christian man or woman. Which brings up the questions: Is God real? If god were truly real, would he allow theses satanic demons to his people? It could be just a test for his followers. If there is a god then there must be other beings against him. It also makes you wonder if the trolls were created by the devil himself. It makes you think if the movie is targeting anti-Christians. It could also be making fun of people who believe in Christ. I believe in Christ and I would feel a little uneasy if there were troll eating Christians out there. And that is exactly why the government should tell their citizens, if this was real.

In the movie there is a struggle between the students and the government. The government is upset that the students are doing a documentary on the trolls. The Norwegian government wants to keep their citizens save. Although, controversially, they are doing more of a disservice to the public, their citizens are hiking, camping, and exploring in what they do not know to be troll territory. Then the government hides the evidence by bringing what looks like a bear (it looked more like a big stuffed bear) to cover up the trolls. It doesn’t seem like a great plan to me. Mostly because most of these trolls are 100 feet tall and I don’t think a bear can do as much damage as a troll can do.

Overall, it was a good movie. It did touch on subjects that I have never really thought of before. With the idea of the trolls eating Christians. I have never heard of that but there is always something new to learn. It brought me to the reality that not everybody believes in God or Christ. It gave a real reality check. It also brought me to the attention that the government may think that they are doing the greater good. But sometimes that’s not always the case. We all need to take a step back and look at our values. And this movie touched bases with that.

8) What is your response to the message of the film? Why do you respond this way? Show that you are thinking about your own thinking here and the biases/assumptions about the world you bring to your viewing. Did the film change the way you view the subject? Why, or why not? {At least 250 words}

I think the message of the film would be the government has too much power over the citizens. The Norwegian government got to choose whether or not we should know if trolls exist. I’m not saying that they do, but there are plenty of stories in history where plenty governments lie either to protect the people or to protect themselves. Example: The U.S. President Richard Nixon lied about Watergate. Was he protecting the U.S. citizens or was he protecting himself? That’s ultimate question here; is the government giving the whole truth, half, or have they just lied the whole time? I think we should be skeptical to what they say, we never know whether they are giving the whole story or not.

 I do have some prejudices against the government. I’m not saying that they are bad people and we should just do away with the government. I think they should be telling us the truth. I understand some people live in bliss and prefer not the truth. But if I am a Christian and I’m about to walk into a Christian eating Troll territory. I would like to know if that was happening. I do think that other people would like to know as well. Now the U.S. government is not perfect and they will try to lighten or cover up something. I think that we should be mindful and if they do lie about something we should call them out on it. Just like the people did with President Clinton when he lied about having an affair.

9) What cultural differences did you notice in the film (philosophical outlook, humor, architecture, customs, clothes, cities, weather, food, music, dancing, lifestyles, etc.)? What did you learn about history, economics or politics? {There are ***always*** differences; look for them} [At least a 250 words]

Culturally they didn’t dress differently. I think a lot of American styles have seeped into Europe. Although, the cars that they used (besides the troll hunters truck) are a lot smaller compared to the American style Sudan that a lot of us drive around. The weather was also different. It seemed like it was frequently raining. It was like watching a movie where the setting was set in Portland, Oregon with mountains. What I consider horror and what they consider horror is different. The part where the troll explodes is actually funny. I think it is because I was desensitized as a child and consider exploding trolls to be funny.

Living in Europe is very different in the U.S. In Europe you have many neighboring countries. They talked about Germans and Polish travelers whereas in the U.S. we only have the Canadians and the Mexicans and that’s about it. It must be nice to come across so many different people from different countries.

Their government is secretive in the Movie. They are hiding the fact that there are large trolls in the woods. I would find that to be hard to believe. But if they are there, then I think the government should at least warn them. I hope that the U.S. government would warn us about trolls living in the woods.

10) What techniques did the filmmaker use that were different from what you see in the films you normally watch? Think about lighting, dialogue, atmosphere, setting, music, and how the filmmaker might play upon your own biases, etc. {150 words}

I usually don’t watch documentary type movies. When I do watch documentary it’s usually on some historical figure. So I had to get used to the shaky camera, at the beginning was driving me nuts, but I was able to get used to it. I don’t normally watch movies in Norwegian. It was a nice change for once. It’s interesting to listen to a language other than your own. Some of the words sounded like English words, it was fun to relate them while watching. The atmosphere was different to the normal action and adventure movies. It seemed more like a humorous adventure. The college students were making fun of something, but you can’t quite figure it out on what they are laughing at. The filmmaker did play on some of biases. Like disliking the government politics and them keeping secrets. I think that a lot of people would agree that lying to the people is not good.

11) Discuss how what you saw in the film relates to one of the assigned readings or class discussions we have had. Be specific. (150 words)

The reading that relates to this movie is the Bhagavad Gita. Krishna urges Arjuna to fight against family and fulfill the warriors. While the troll hunter is not related to the trolls in any way, he is still being pushed to kill the trolls. He was forced to go into troll territory by the government. The government telling him he would be a hero and he should do what the government tells him to do. The government would be the higher power. Krishna is the higher power (the god) telling Arjuna to fight and kill. Arjuna felt pressured but also persuaded to fight. Krishna is a higher power and human kind should listen to the superior power (depending on who you talk to).

12) Why do you think I assign a foreign film?

I think you assign a foreign film for students to grasp on different cultures and different languages. America has had a big impact on the world with it’s own culture. So it’s nice to see diversity.