

Recommended Movie Selections

Prejudice:

- “Crash” (2004) – In the “Blind Fear” scene, a white housewife interacts with an Hispanic locksmith man who has been hired to fix a door in her home. She assumes that he is a thug who later will break into her house, so she suggests to her husband that another locksmith be hired to change the new locks. Prejudice also is apparent in the “Miscommunication” scene when a police officer picks up a hitchhiker. Reference: www.imdb.com/title/tt0375679

Racism:

- “Crash” (2005) – In the “Sobriety Test” scene, a racist white police officer pulls over a car driven by a successful black man. He is accompanied by his lighter-skinned, black wife. He sexually harasses the wife in front of her husband, who is powerless to come to her aid. Reference: www.imdb.com/title/tt0375679

Ableism:

- “I am Sam” (2001) – Sam is a mentally challenged man who is involved in a court battle to gain custody of his young daughter. In the courtroom scene, the opposing attorney attempts to convince the judge that Sam’s mental challenges make him unfit to care for his daughter. The lawyer does so by making Sam look stupid and incompetent while he is on the witness stand. Reference: www.iam sammovie.com

Ageism:

- “Cocoon” (1985) – In this classic film, residents of a senior citizens home enjoy the pleasures of a “fountain of youth.” Ageism is evident as others respond to the elderly who are not behaving according to the norms that society associates with their age. Reference - www.imdb.com/title/tt0088933
- “In Good Company” (2004) – In this film, a middle-aged man must learn to deal with being demoted when his company experiences a corporate take over. To make matters worse, his new boss is much younger. Some of the workplace scenes that involve conflict between the two characters suggest that the younger boss has little respect for the ways of his older employee. Reference: www.imdb.com/title/tt0385267

Heterosexism:

- “Brokeback Mountain” (2005) – Jack and Ennis are homosexual cowboys. In a particularly disconcerting scene, they have traveled to the top of the mountain and are sitting before a campfire. Jack listens to Ennis tell him about a memory from his childhood. In this story, Ennis’s father shows Ennis the mutilated body of a rancher who was beaten and killed because he and another man lived together. Reference: www.imdb.com/title/tt0388795
- “Philadelphia” (1993) - Philadelphia is the story of a gay attorney, Andrew Beckett, who is fired from his job at a prestigious law firm because he has AIDS. He hires a homophobic lawyer, Joe Miller, to help him sue the law firm. While Miller eventually develops a friendship with Beckett, his homophobia is highly apparent in two early scenes - - when Beckett first meets with Miller to ask him to take his case and when Miller goes home and tells his wife about his initial meeting with Beckett. Reference: www.imdb.com/title/tt0107818