Film in Politics - Final Exam

Answer only three of the following four essay questions. Make sure you answer the essay questions with an organized essay, meaning your answer should have an introductory paragraph, a body with several paragraphs illuminating certain points, arguments or evidence, and a concluding paragraph. Make sure you cite the readings carefully. Extensive quotations are not necessary. Instead, use your own words, but citing page numbers is appropriate. No outside references are needed or recommended, focus on course material (readings, lectures, the films we have viewed, but especially the readings).

1. Many films seem to have an underlying message or theme that all our system/society really needs is one good guy or strong leader to help us overcome the problem(s) we face. Provide some examples of how this message is portrayed. How are such portrayals problematic?

2. One reason a course in film and politics is relevant to political science is because of the issue of censorship. Some form of censorship has been in effect since the birth of cinema (or the birth of government for that matter). In what ways has the government and other political actors tried to censor the content of media? How has censorship influenced the content of media? How has censorship been applied differently to the different forms of media (film, cable TV, broadcast TV, etc.).

3. What was the "Brief, Shining Moment" in film history? How were these films different from other moments in film history? Do you agree with Coyne's assessment of this period? Why or why not?

4. In what way is television a more powerful mode of communication than "film"? In what way may shows like The Simpson's and The West Wing help us understand politics?

An electronic copy (typed, double spaced, 12 font) emailed to kenneth.fernandez@unlv.edu is due at Monday 12:10pm, May 9th. Label electronic file with you last name (e.g. Fernandez_final.doc).