

FLIM AS LITERATURE
Valencia High School
Mr. Zamoski

OBJECTIVES

This class will give you the opportunity to study films critically and analytically. As a class, we will watch 20 – 24 films. You will respond to these films in writing assignments throughout the semester. We study film with respect to history, themes and genre.

CLASS PHILOSOPHY

As a senior-only class, the same behavior and attitude will be required of you that will be expected next year as college students, full-time employees or members of the armed forces. As a result, you will be held responsible for your actions and choices at all times.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

I expect students to demonstrate respect, dignity and responsibility. When students do not display this behavior they will be treated accordingly.

- **Tardiness:** If the bell rings and you are not in the room then get a pass – no exceptions.
- **Disturbing Class:** If you are disruptive in any manner you will be asked to leave.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

As opposed to the nightly homework you may be used to, you will have fewer, larger assignments. You will still have short-term assignments, but not every night. In order to be successful, you will need to schedule and plan your own time.

Grades are given according to the number of points earned. This means that if you miss an assignment it does serious damage to your grade. All essays and major assignments should be typed on a Mac or PC. **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED.**

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|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Film Analysis Essays | 400 points (4 essays) |
| • Mid-term Exam | 200 points |
| • Final Exam | 240 points |
| • Favorite Film Project | 80 points (Research) |
| • Director Project | 50 points (Research) |
| • Miscellaneous Assignments (i.e. quizzes, homework) | 300 points |

SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS

Film Analysis Essays: You will need to write 4 papers (**minimum 750** words in length) on any films we watch in class. Essay prompts will be given to you for each film. **At least two essays must be completed by mid-term.** That will leave a remainder of 2 essays for the final 9 weeks. You must keep current with your work or you will fall behind.

Grade Scale: ([+] and [-] signs will be awarded. Numbers will not be rounded off).

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 - 89%

C = 70 – 79%

D = 60 – 69%

F = 59.9% and below

PLAGIARISM

If you plagiarize, your paper will get a zero regardless of all excuses.

Every year I encounter plagiarism, and every year I prosecute it. All you have to do is cite sources that you are paraphrasing and cite sources from which you obtain direct quotes. You need to use parenthetical references within your paper, and you need to have a works cited page. Also, you need to use your very own brain and formulate your very own words and ideas in your paper. Your paper is not just information from other sources. These sources are used to SUPPORT your analysis, not supplant it. In case you are unsure, look at this information from Indiana University Bloomington website:

Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work, including the work of other students, as one's own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, unless the information is common knowledge. If you use someone else's words or ideas and do not cite the material, you are plagiarizing.

- a. A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, or theories of another person without acknowledgment.
- b. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge indebtedness whenever:
 - 1. Directly quoting another person's actual words, whether oral or written;
 - 2. Using another person's ideas, opinions, or theories;
 - 3. Paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
 - 4. Borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
 - 5. Offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment.

JUST CITE YOUR MATERIAL!

ATTENDANCE

If you are frequently absent this class is not for you. We spend a majority of the time watching films and discussing them. You are responsible for the content of the films and the discussions. **Quizzes must be made within two days.**

GETTING IN TOUCH

Voice Mail: 294-1188, ext. 1925 **Email:** rzameroski@hartdistrict.org **Prep Period:** 6th (1:15 – 2:05)

If you need to speak to me in person, or need help with an assignment, you can meet with me by appointment.

Listed below are the films that will be studied in my *Film as Literature* class. Most of the films were chosen by the Motion Pictures Academy as one of the best of that year or the best of all time (this excludes documentary and foreign films). Most of these films are considered to be the models for future generations of cinema. The comprised list includes many genres and has been chosen very carefully.

A rating of the film is located next to the film. All films will be discussed in a mature and scholarly manner. Students who cannot handle the material appropriately will be asked to leave the class. Take a look at the list and call me if you have any questions. If not, please sign on the line below. Thank you for your concern and understanding.

If you have any questions regarding your child's grade or progress throughout the year please do not hesitate to call. I will return your call as soon as possible. Let's have a great year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Zamerowski

Mr. Robert Zamerowski (294-1188 ext. 1925)

Comedy

- **Some Like it Hot* (1959) G
- **Young Frankenstein* (1974) PG
- **Terms of Endearment* (1983) PG
- **Broadcast News* (1987) R

The Silent Era

- **Greed* (Part of *Autocrats*) G
- **The Kid* (1921) G

War Epic

- *Excerpts from *Apocalypse Now* (1979) R
- **The Thin Red Line* (1999) R
- **The Deer Hunter* (1978) R

Western

- **Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969) PG
- **The Searchers* (1956) G

Love Story

- **Casablanca* (1942) G
- **Annie Hall* (1977) PG

Redemption

- **It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) G
- **On the Waterfront* (1954) PG

Dramatic Tragedy

- **Citizen Kane* (1941) PG
- **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1978) R
- **Dog Day Afternoon* (1975) R
- **Tape* (2002) R
- **In America* (2004) PG

Disillusionment

- **A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951) PG
- **In America* (2003) PG

Horror

- **Psycho* (1960) R
- **Misery* (1990) R

Gangster Films

- **Bonnie and Clyde* (1967) R
- **The Godfather* (1972) R

Satire/Alienation

- **The Graduate* (1967) R
- **East of Eden* (1954) NR
- **Badlands* (1973) PG

Detective/Film Noir

- **Bladerunner* (1982) R
- **Chinatown* (1974) R

Documentary

- **Brother's Keeper* (1992) NR
- **Hearts of Darkness* (1992) R

Foreign

- **Cinema Paradiso* (1989) PG
- **Run, Lola, Run* (1998) R

Please sign showing your acceptance of the program:

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Student's Signature