

Film II Course Syllabus

Course Name: Film Appreciation

Course Number: ENG366

Course Description:

Film Appreciation II is a semester-long Fine Arts or general elective course offered to juniors and seniors. The purpose of this course is to provide you with a combination of viewing, written analysis and oral discussion of a variety directors that have influenced the film industry. Discussion and writing activities will stress camera angles, directorial style and research. In addition, you will be expected to use film concepts and vocabulary from Film I as you explore your further understanding of this art form.

Teacher Name(s): Coenen, H

Teacher(s) Phone: 552-5439

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Teacher Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/heathercoenen>

Office Hour(s): 8:30-9:00am (Eng/SS Office)

Standards/Course Expectations

Guiding Questions:

What is the director saying in this film?

What value does this film have upon our lives?

What is the director making the viewer think about?

Course Justification

Film is the final art form of humanity. It is also the youngest art form having been a creation of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Though paintings on cave walls predate films by many thousands of years, they share a common trait: both desire to tell a story. Just as one may stand before a painting or a piece of sculpture in an art gallery and attempt to discern the artists intent, so too will we attempt to understand the director's message in each film. Armed with the vocabulary and history of film, you will become discerning critics and better viewers of film spanning nearly one hundred years of human history. You will be able to identify directorial style.

Core Materials

Because students are required to review each film, a spiral notebook is required. In addition, students are responsible for taking notes on films, which can be used in the course projects.

Discussion Expectations

We will spend most of our semester together in the semi-darkness of film viewing. Understanding that, what little time we have for discussion needs your full participation. All of us have opinions about art. Since film is an art form, I'm certain you will have opinions about each of our films. Please, be willing to share those opinions using the language of film as well as your personal likes and dislikes about a given film. **There may be random oral quizzes at the end of the class periods to insure discussion. If you are absent, you will not be able to make these up.**

Parent Permission Letter

Students will receive a letter outlining the specific films that may be watched in class. We ask that parents review and sign the letter prior to the second week of the course.

Evaluation/Assessment & Assignments

Assessment will be given via presentation. You will choose a director and share your research with the class. There will be a presentation at mid-terms as well as a final presentation at the end of the semester.

Participation/Viewing Points

Since film is a visual medium, there will be two participation points given each day that students are in FULL attendance. Tardy students will lose one point of participation on the first occurrence and both points on any subsequent tardies. (These students must also sign in at the tardy log at the entrance of the room.) Watching the films is your assignment within the class period; thus, sleeping, text messaging, talking or any other engagement not related to the film will be construed as non-participation. Making up participation points can be done by viewing the portion of the film you missed from 7-7:40am or after school.

Plagiarism Guidelines

PLAGIARISM

Hempstead students are expected to do their own schoolwork. Cheating by looking at another student's schoolwork, copying others' work, copying from other sources or similar cheating is not tolerated. With the advent of the internet, the availability of information has exploded into a whole new and exciting realm for our students. The accessibility of documents has also brought with it an increasing concern regarding plagiarism, which is a form of cheating.

All Hempstead teachers are committed to educating our students about plagiarism, helping them understand what plagiarism is—especially through specific instruction in individual courses. We aim to teach students how to accurately quote and document sources as well as how to effectively convert researched information into their own words.

Plagiarism is defined by www.dictionary.com as: "a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work; taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own." Iowa Core Literacy Anchor Standard #8 for College and Career Readiness states that students will: "Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism."

Cheating, including plagiarism, may result in loss of or reduced credit on an assignment, referral to the Assistant Principal office for documentation on the student's record, and possible loss of class credit and failing grade.

Plagiarism and cheating exist in many forms and to various extents. Some typical examples are noted here:

1. Copying another student's assignment/artwork/project; note: **BOTH parties are engaging in cheating**
2. Using another person's paper/artwork/project/ in its entirety and calling it your own
3. Copying a paper word-for-word (artwork/project) from an internet document or documents
4. Using sentences from another source but replacing a few words
5. Passing off ideas or critiques as your own when they are someone else's
6. Not putting quotation marks around exact words pulled from another resource
7. Not documenting the source at all, or documenting the wrong source
8. Not citing the sources used (even when paraphrasing and summarizing)

Plagiarism, cont.

Incidental plagiarism will be addressed by the classroom teacher, and may include loss of credit for the assignment and parent contact. Consequences for blatant plagiarism and repeated acts of incidental plagiarism are listed below. Disciplinary action by Hempstead administration **may include loss of class credit and failing grade.**

Juniors & Seniors: 1st occurrence: 0% on piece without revision, parent contact, referral to Assistant Principal for documentation purposes; repeated plagiarized pieces 0% without revision and referral to AP Office for possible disciplinary action

Make-Up Work

Since film is primarily a visual course, students who miss days of viewing are expected to make up the films that have been seen in class. This needs to happen quickly in order to keep up with the rest of the class. Obviously regular attendance with very few absences is critical to your success in Film II. Make-up work must be completed within the number of days absent to be considered on time.

Outside Films

With each director unit there is an expectation for students to watch one film outside of class. These can be easily obtained by Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, the Carnegie Stout Library or the “Coenen” library.

Behavior Expectations

Our essential behavior expectations are common human courtesies...cell phones are off, arriving on time, please, thank you, and excuse me. If we cannot settle our issues personally, we will seek outside assistance from counselors, parents/guardians, and/or assistant principals.

Attendance:

I will be following the Attendance Policy 5107. This has been put forth by the State of Iowa and the DCSD; you can find this policy in the student handbook. I expect all students to be in class on time every day. If absenteeism (excused or unexcused) leads to a failing grade, it is possible that you could be dropped from this course. It is the student’s responsibility to talk to me about their absenteeism.

Student Ids:

Per District expectation, high school students are expected to wear their student id while at school at all times. In this classroom, you will be expected to wear your student id. Infractions of this expectation will result in one of the following consequences: teacher/student conference, parent contact, and/or office intervention.

Technology Usage: Cell phones and electronic devices are a part of our world. That said, they will not be a disruptive part of class. There will be occasions where the use is acceptable, but for the most part, while in class they are not allowed. If I see them out on your desk, if your backpack or purse is hiding them or if the devices are in your ear, it is expected they be removed from your person and held until the end of the hour. In the event that their removal becomes an issue, I will follow the handbook guidelines and place them in the AP office for your parents/guardians to pick up.

Timeline

Throughout the course of the semester we will view and discuss roughly fifteen films by seven directors. Following is a list of films that we will use as our core curriculum; **this is open to change due to time constraints and creative decisions.**

FIRST QUARTER

Jobs in the Film Industry

Game of the Thrones; behind the scenes of “Loot Train Attack”

Establishing A Ratings System

This Film Is Not Yet Rated: a documentary about the way the MPAA rates films – NC-17

The Early Influences of Film

Alfred Hitchcock

Rear Window, Vertigo, North By Northwest

Martin Scorsese

Taxi Driver – R, The Departed - R

Spike Lee

Do The Right Thing – R, Jungle Fever – R, Malcolm X – R

SECOND QUARTER

Contemporary Movements in Film

Kathryn Bigelow

Point Break – R

The Hurt Locker – R

The Coen Brothers

Raising Arizona – PG-13

The Big Lebowski – R

No Country for Old Men - R

David Fincher

SeVen – R

Fight Club – R

Panic Room – R

Christopher Nolan

Memento – R

The Dark Knight – PG-13

Inception – PG-13