

Film Course Syllabus

Course Name: Film Appreciation

Course Number: ENG365

Course Description:

Film Appreciation 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 of films spanning the last century. You will gain an appreciation of the language of film and how films function as communication, entertainment and art. Discussion and writing activities will stress analysis, evaluation and comparison/contrast. In addition, you will be expected to use film concepts and vocabulary as you explore your understanding of this art form.

Teacher Name(s): Coenen, H.; Riepe, K.; Swift, S.

Teacher(s) Email: hcoenen; kriepe; sswift @dbqschools.org

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

Office Hour(s): Coenen: 8:30-9:00; Riepe: 8:30-9:00; Swift: 7:45-8:15

Standards/Course Expectations

Guiding Questions:

What is film?

Why do we watch film?

What value does film have upon our lives?

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.

Homework Expectations

You are expected to turn in the assignment for each film the day after we complete the film. If you do not turn it into the basket and you were not absent, it will be marked with half credit. If you are absent you should be prepared to turn it in on the day you come back.

Notetaking Expectations

There is no textbook for Film Appreciation so it is imperative you take accurate notes in your Film Appreciation booklet regarding film values, film vocabulary and film history. You will be expected to use the language of film in both your writing and classroom discussions.

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.**

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

You will be assessed on each film with a film packet and written film reviews. There will also be a midterm on film vocabulary and history. The final exam for this course is comprehensive, but many of you may end up exempted from the exam. For those that earn a B+ (87%) or higher, you will automatically be exempt.

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. 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.

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.

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

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.

Make-up Work: Any work missed for any reason **MUST** be made up, or you will receive a zero. Assignments that are due on the day of your absence will be due the day you return. For example, if it is due Monday but you are gone that day, then it is due Tuesday when you return. It will be **YOUR** responsibility to remember to turn in your work. For assignments that are assigned when you are gone it is **YOUR** responsibility to contact me to discuss missed work. Unless there are extenuating circumstances that we discuss, you will have the same amount of time to complete the work as your peers. For example if they had 24 hours, so will you.

About Late Work*

Homework will be accepted after it is due for half credit. I am willing to be as flexible as you are diligent in your effort to pass the course.

***EXTENSIONS MUST BE REQUESTED AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE THE DUE DATE!!**

Extra-Credit:

Opportunities for extra-credit will be limited to enrichment activities and will be provided at my discretion.

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.

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 twenty films. 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.** Films rated "R" are so designated.

FIRST QUARTER: History in the Making

Why We Watch Film

Focus: Film as entertainment

The Fugitive or The Bourne Identity

Shawshank Redemption – R

The Early Age of Film

Focus: Film as a developing art form

Chaplin's shorts

The Gold Rush

Chaplin

The Coming of Sound

Focus: Film as a form of expression

The Jazz Singer clip

Singing in the Rain

Special Effects in Film

Focus: Special Effects

King Kong (1933) – Sp/fx Documentary and film

Jurassic Park – Sp/fx Documentary and film or Matrix “R”

SECOND QUARTER: A Cinematic Journey through Genres

Horror: The Shining - R, Texas Chainsaw Massacre - R, Psycho and/or Silence of the Lambs - R

Film Noir: Double Indemnity, Brick - R or Sin City - R

Teen Rebellion: Rebel Without a Cause, Heathers, The Way Way Back or Breakfast Club - R

Foreign Films: Battleship Potemkin clip, Pans Labyrinth – R, Spirited Away or Amelie - R

American Crime: The Godfather, Pulp Fiction – R or Reservoir Dogs – R

Independent Film: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Little Miss Sunshine – R or 500 Days of Summer - R

Culminating Film: American Beauty – R