

FILM APPRECIATION I ENG365

Instructor: Ms. Swift sswift@dbqschools.org

Semester Course 1 Credit Open to: juniors and seniors NCAA Approved Prerequisite: none

Course Description:

Film Appreciation I is a combination of viewing, written analysis and oral discussion of a variety of films spanning all decades and genres. Students are given 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, students will be expected to use film concepts and vocabulary as they explore their understanding of this art form.

Iowa Core Standards specific to Film Appreciation:

Writing: (W.11-12.1)

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence

Language: (L.11-12.1)

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar & usage when writing or speaking.

National Core Arts Standards:

Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work (Re7.1)

Anchor Standard 8: interpret intent and meaning in artistic work (Re8.1)

Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (Re9.1)

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding (Cn11.2)

Assessments:

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. Assignments are always due the day after the film is complete. **Late work is not accepted.**

Content: this is open to change due to time constraints and creative decisions.

FIRST QUARTER: History in the Making

Why We Watch Film Focus: Film as entertainment

The Bourne Identity

Shawshank Redemption – “R”

The Early Age of Film Focus: Film as a developing art form

“The Rink” & 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

SECOND QUARTER: A Cinematic Journey through Genres

Horror: Ed Gein documentary, Psycho - R, Silence of the Lambs - R

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

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

Foreign Films: Pan's Labyrinth – R, Spirited Away-G or Amelie - R or Life is Beautiful

American Crime: The Godfather - R, Pulp Fiction – R

Independent Film: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest - R, Little Miss Sunshine – R

Culminating Film(s): American Beauty – R and/or Crash --R

Instructional Strategies:

Students will become more critical film viewers by making descriptive observations and reflections upon film, paying particular attention to how directorial and artistic choices influence audience.

Core Materials & 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. Because students are required to take notes on each film, a spiral notebook is required. Both this notebook and the notes in the film packet may be used on the exam. Class content will be available on a learning management system.

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.

Participation/Viewing Points

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. 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 7-7:35am or after school.

Plagiarism Guidelines

The Hempstead policy on cheating, located in student agenda, states: "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. **Discipline may include the loss of class credit and failing grade.**

Make-Up Work

Because we have limited copies of films, we are sometimes unable to loan out materials; therefore, students have two options. First, they may use our materials within school hours. Second, they may rent the films on their own, but please be aware that many of our films are out of print or not mainstream and may not be readily available. Make-up work must be completed within the number of days absent.

Behavior Expectations

Please arrive on time, put away your cell phone, and use 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. If cell phone infractions become an issue, you will be required to take it to the AP office for your parents/guardians to pick up.