



FILM ANALYSIS AND CRITICISM

Insert Teacher Name

Insert Room Number

Insert Full Year/Semester

Insert Period

Insert Email Address

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is not about viewing films for a few months; it is about spending a few months of preparation for a lifetime of viewing films with a critical eye and an intelligent mind. Because we live in an information culture that is increasingly dominated by the image, students need to develop habits of perception, analysis, judgment, and selectivity which improve their capacity of processing, analyzing, and evaluating visual data. Because movies, videos, and DVD's are such a part of the students' lives, it is important that students acquire visual literacy. In order to gain this visual literacy, students need to learn how to read a film, to understand the art of watching a film, and to recognize the rhetoric of visual language. Understanding Film uses the medium of film to teach the strands of the English curriculum. Writing, reading, viewing, researching, discussion, and critical thinking occur on a daily basis. Fictional and non-fictional reading will be required. Students must pay careful attention to the correct use of grammar as they produce writing that is well organized, coherent, and supported. The elements of character development, imagery, thematic structure, and point of view will be explored through the medium of film. Students will view films to understand human behavior so that they can make better choices in their own lives. Students will also complete an Independent Study Project in the spring.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students should:

become visually literate by developing skills in "reading films".

examine and question their own assumptions, assumptions implied within films, and assumptions of the culture which produced the films, in order to develop new perceptions or ways of seeing.

critically analyze and evaluate the artistic and cinematic value of films and recognize film as an art form.

analyze films within historical or cultural contexts of particular times in American history.

develop sensitivity for cultures, traditions, and values other than their own through the study of foreign films.

analyze, synthesize, and make correlations while they are reading, discussing, and writing about films in order to interpret films and evaluate the ideas which films offer.

write in expository modes of compare/contrast, cause/effect, fact/opinion, and illustration.

conduct research about films.

UNITS OF STUDY

Building the Foundation for Film Study

Evaluating Our Beliefs

Film Writing Strategies

Silent Films Say So Much

Censorship Restrictions

Traveling Through American History with Films

Studying Film Genres

Beware of the Documentary

Learn About Our World Neighbors Through Film

Novels to Films

Utilizing the Teacher

COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

GRADING

Summative Assessments:	Insert % Here (Minimum of 70%). Insert Categories/Weighting (ie. Papers – 30%)
Formative Assessments:	Insert % Here (Maximum of 30%). Insert Categories/Weighting (ie. Quizzes – 50%)
Behavioral Characteristics:	Insert % Here (Maximum of 10%). Insert Categories/Weighting (ie. Particip. - 90%)
Insert Additional Grading Information Here	

MATERIALS

Insert Course Materials Here (ie. Textbook, Binder, Calculator, Highlighters)

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Insert Course Expectations Here

EXTRA HELP

Insert Course Expectations Here

Insert Additional Information Here