Film In Our World

Syllabus

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**Objectives:**

We will begin the class with the mantra that **Viewing and understanding films require our active participation as viewers.**

We tend to think of watching film as a passive activity, we just let the images and sounds wash over us. Believe it or not we take part in what we watch, we catch clues and cues, anticipate events, and react to characters, and notice themes and meanings. Much of the time, we aren’t aware of this participation. But when we do notice it, our active involvement in watching the film can reward us. And as we learn more about how to look and listen and what to look and listen for, we can find more rewards; more to think about, more to appreciate, and even more to enjoy.

This course, then, will be about how to watch and listen to films, using individual movies as examples; we’ll consider how events, characters, and meanings give stories their shape. Just as important, we’ll examine how these elements reflect the visions and beliefs of different filmmakers and the times and places they come from, as well as our own visions and beliefs.

**You will be able to:**

* Identify the major stages n making a film
* Demonstrate your knowledge of different types of films (genre)
* Demonstrate your understanding of narrative form
* Demonstrate your understanding of verisimilitude
* Demonstrate your understanding of form and content
* Identify the difference between diegetic and nondigetic
* Demonstrate your understanding of how narrative and style create different kinds of meaning
* Identify and use cinematic vocabulary
* Look at movies with greater understanding and comprehension

**Text/Materials:**

Richard Barsam, *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film*

Spiral notebook for notes

Various study guides provides by instructor

**Grading:**

Your grade will be based on the following:

* Five tests and one final exam
* Each test will be approximately 25 multiple choice/true –false questions. All tests are based on the reading from the text as well as lecture. (100pts per exam)
* It is imperative that you read the chapters as they are assigned
* There will also be pop quizzes from time to time
* There will be comprehension worksheets for each movie, they are anywhere from 1 – 50 pts.
* Your cumulative grade is based on points and all points are equal.
* Attendance
* It is imperative that you are in class every day. If you are absent you have to check the absence file for any work missed. You are responsible to view any movie you have missed. Netfix is an excellent investment.
* Missed work is only accepted if you have an excused absence. Work sheets are due at the end of a film. They cannot be turned in after the due date.

**Class Policies:**

**No Electronic Devices of any kind should be on during class.**

(students initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_) Items will be confiscated and returned to their owner at the end of the hour. If this becomes habitual, electronics will then be given to the appropriate Assistant Principal for retrieval.

Please refrain from talking during the screening of a film.

Please do not gather your belongings and get up and wait at the door until the bell rings. I will give you a minute to prepare to leave class.

**Extra Credit Opportunity:**

**Extra credit is only possible if the student has turned in all of his or her assignments.** Extra Credit is not instead of credit. Extra Credit is the boost that a student might need.

Extra Credit will be a film analysis 1500 word paper (about 5 typewritten pages). It must meet the criteria provided. Film analysis criteria are available upon request. Extra Credit must be turned in no later than May 13, 2013.

**I have read and understand the above syllabus:**

Student’s signature and date

Parent’s signature and date