

English IV: Film Analysis and Composition – 0420

2008-09 Syllabus

½ credit

Mr. Maxfield

maxfieldw@mehlville.k12.mo.us

314.467.6238

Daily assignments and handouts from class can be found at

<http://maxfield.synthasite.com>

Course Description:

This course offers the student an opportunity to view film as an art form and write about the experience. It includes a basic overview of the role of the director, the screenplay, performance, music, editing and other areas of creativity that are a part of film. A minimum of 12 major written assignments are required using a variety of formats, including the essay, reaction response, journal response, direct application response, and film review.

Possible Films to be Studied:*

An Inconvenient Truth

Blade Runner

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

Chicago

Citizen Kane

City Lights

Disturbia

Double Indemnity

Edward Scissorhands

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

King Kong

... and many other film clips

Philadelphia

Rear Window

Rocky and Rocky Balboa

Silence of the Lambs

Some Like It Hot

Sunset Boulevard

The Godfather

The Princess Bride

The Shawshank Redemption

The Wizard of Oz

Tootsie

**Other films may be substituted*

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- analyze & interpret various production values in film
- understand production, promotion, & merchandising costs
- create film presentations showing an understanding of the production values
- analyze the various professional roles involved in film production
- analyze & evaluate the use of film techniques & shots
- understand & identify special effects
- examine & differentiate the characteristics & techniques employed in various genres
- discuss film as it reflects and influences the attitudes, values, behaviors, myths, & preoccupations that define a given culture & the effects it has on the individual
- write film responses with skill with an understanding of audience
- have an enhanced enjoyment of film

Materials:

Students will need a 3-ring binder, loose leaf paper, blue or black ink pens, a highlighter, and a flash drive to save work. Materials need to be brought to class every day.

Assessment:

Students will be evaluated on class participation, presentations, critical analyses, film reviews, video productions, journal responses, quizzes, tests, extra credit, and a final exam. Grades will be calculated according to a total point system.

The following scale applies:

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

I < 70%

Class Absences:

Class attendance is essential for success. If a student is absent, he or she will be responsible for renting the movie and watching it on his or her own.

Late Work: – *The Power of “I”*

Instead of receiving a zero in the grade book for a missing assignment, a student will receive an “I” for incomplete. Additionally, any assignment scoring below a 70% (C) will also receive an “I.”

Those “I’s” will remain in the grade book until the student completes the work at a grade level of 70% or above, thus demonstrating that the assessed academic standard has been met. No grade below a “C” will be acceptable.

A student who does not meet academic standards will:

- be asked why he/she did not do the work assigned;
- have parent(s) notified after 3 incomplete or missing assignments;
- revise work or retake tests until standards are met;
- not receive a grade of “A” if the assignment is not turned in on time;
- be required to attend extra help sessions (before, during, or after school);
- never receive an “F” on acceptable completion of assignment; and
- receive an “I” (incomplete) for any grade reporting period in which the student has one or more incomplete grades. Receiving a grade of incomplete for the semester would require the student to retake the course for that semester.

Parent Permission:

Parent/Guardian approval is necessary for R-rated films. Students without permission will be given alternative assignments.