

English IV: Film Analysis and Composition – 0420

2009-10 Syllabus

½ credit

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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.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- analyze & interpret various production values in film
- 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, and 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.

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.

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%	I<70%
B=80-89%	D=60-69%
C=70-79%	F<60%

Late Work:

In order to receive an **A**, work must be turned in on time. A paper one day late can earn a **B** at best. For papers turned in 2 days late or after, the maximum grade earned will be a **C**.

The Power of I

Instead of receiving a zero in the grade book for a missing *Power of I* 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;
- be assigned a prescriptive travel pass for TAP;
- be required to attend extra help sessions - first during TAP and then before or after school;
- revise work or retake tests until standards are met;
- not receive a grade of "A" if the assignment is not turned in on time;
- 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. (At the end of the semester all remaining "I's" will be converted to zeros and a student's percentage will then determine the final grade.)

*** Certain assignments will not be *POI* and thus will be ineligible for make-up or late credit. Examples include (but are not limited to) in-class assignments, worksheets, and short answer questions.**

Possible Films to be Studied:

A Beautiful Mind
Airplane
Brick
Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid
Chicago
Cinderella Man
City Lights
Dear Zachary
Disturbia
Do the Right Thing
Donnie Darko
Edward Scissorhands

Erin Brockovich
Ferris Bueller's Day Off
Forrest Gump
Freedom Writers
Friday Night Lights
Grease
Grizzly Man
Hoop Dreams
Memento
Million Dollar Baby
Powder
Rear Window

Silence of the Lambs
Sixteen Candles
Stand by Me
The Breakfast Club
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
The Kite Runner
The Princess Bride
The Shawshank Redemption
The Wizard of Oz
Tombstone
Unforgiven
Zoolander

. . . and many other film clips

**Other films may be substituted*

Parent Permission:

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