



# English IV: Film Analysis & Composition – 0420

½ credit

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Daily assignments and handouts from class  
can be found at  
<http://maxfield.synthasite.com>  
or through fusion

## 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 folder or binder, loose leaf paper or notebook, and blue or black ink pens. 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.

**ALL ESSAYS ARE REQUIRED TO BE TYPED.**

The following scale applies:

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F<60

## Homework Policy:

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 possible is a **C**.

**All major assignments (projects and papers) are mandatory.** Students failing to submit major assignments will receive a zero in the grade book and “MSG” in the comment column. Additionally, any major assignment scoring below a 70% (C) will receive an “INC.”

Those marks 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 or after school tutoring;
- be required to attend extra help sessions - first during TAP and then before or after school;
- be assigned a detention if extra help sessions are skipped and assignment still has not been completed;
- 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.

**\* Certain assignments will not be eligible 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*

*Alien*

*Back to the Future*

*Brick*

*Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid*

*Casablanca*

*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*

*Inside Man*

*King of Kong*

*Let the Right One In*

*Memento*

*Million Dollar Baby*

*No Country for Old men*

*Powder*

*Pleasantville*

*Rear Window*

*Shaun of the Dead*

*Slumdog Millionaire*

*Silence of the Lambs*

*Sixteen Candles*

*Stand by Me*

*The Breakfast Club*

*The Game*

*The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*

*The Green Mile*

*The Kite Runner*

*The Princess Bride*

*The Shawshank Redemption*

*The Wizard of Oz*

*Tombstone*

*Toy Story 1, 2, or 3*

*Unforgiven*

... 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.