



# 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>  
(Google Classroom will also be utilized)

## Course Description:

This Communication Arts course offers the student an opportunity to view film as an art form and write and talk about the experience. It provides an overview of the roles involved in producing a film including directing, screenwriting, editing, acting, and other areas of creativity. This film course covers major film genres and early film history. It also examines film's role and influence in society. A minimum of 3 major finished writing pieces, Socratic discussion, and a culminating presentation are required. Formats include film review, critical essay, direct application response, compare and contrast essay, student produced film, and persuasive presentation. Additional assignments for each film will also be required.

## Course Objectives:

1. Students in English IV will participate in formal and informal oral discussion and presentations, including Socratic Seminars, collaborative projects, and student-led class dialogues, analyze speaker's purpose as well as focus on speaking skills including tone, volume, eye contact, etc., and complete a minimum of one developed, formal multi-media presentation.
2. Students in English IV will engage regularly in academic and personal research, distinguish among sources based on quality, practice academic honesty, utilize style guides (including MLA), & produce a minimum of three formal researched products such as essays, presentations, projects, etc.
3. Students in English IV will read daily, including a required anchor text of substance (such as a novel, memoir, informational text) of sufficient text complexity to prepare students for college-level texts, with a minimum expectation of 75 pages of reading per week (including research).
4. Students in English IV will write daily (including journaling, creative pieces, summary, short response, etc.), engage in the writing process (including pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and conferencing with the teacher), with a minimum expectation of 3-4 finished pieces of substance produced each semester (such as essay, narrative, argument, script, etc.).
5. Students in Film Analysis and Composition will identify and analyze film production elements and filmmaking techniques used in a variety of films and genres spanning film history.
6. Students in Film Analysis and Composition will identify and analyze the various professional roles (including directing, producing, acting, casting, and cinematography) involved in film production.
7. Students in Film Analysis and Composition will study the elements and conventions of various film genres (including the western, science fiction, horror) and analyze the way genres evolve over time.
8. Students in Film Analysis and Composition will analyze film from an artistic perspective and examine stylistic decisions and auteur theory in filmmaking.
9. Students in Film Analysis and Composition will compare and contrast the adaptation of book to film using age and content appropriate source material.

### Materials:

Students will need a 3-ring folder or binder, loose leaf paper or notebook, and blue or black ink pens. Students also should have a charged 1:1 laptop. 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 AND SUBMITTED THROUGH TURNITIN.COM.**

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.**

### Parent Permission:

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