

Literary Genres: Film Analysis

Instructor: Heather Hill

Email: hhill4@houstonisd.org

Conference: 5th Period

“Films can be much more than entertainment; they can also help students better understand themselves, their culture, and other forms of media.” - Patricia Lastiri

Students today are predominately visual learners, and teaching skills like theme, conflict, and characterization through film will have a much stronger impact than sticking to one medium such as novels. Breaking down films, or “reading” films as Lastiri would say, for an extensive analysis will help strengthen students’ synthesis and evaluation skills not to mention critical thinking skills necessary in the classroom and in life outside the classroom.

The class will cover the same skills and objectives when studying and analyzing a novel, such as plot and character development, theme, allusions, conflict, determining audience, archetypes, point of view, rhetorical shift, setting, styles, tone, and mood. By analyzing the director’s use of color, lighting, camera direction, costume, soundtrack, and other elements, students will have the chance to approach concepts studied only in literature in a new visual format. Essentially, the students will learn how to deconstruct the film to help critical and independent thinking.

The fundamental objective of this course is that students learn to perceive, understand, and evaluate films more effectively, with greater assurance, validity, and pleasure. To achieve this objective, we will study the basic principles and techniques of film art, with emphasis upon the complementary contributions of the director, the cinematographer, the editor, and the screenwriter.

Course Objectives:

- Introduce students to a wide variety of films from different genres, time periods, and cultures.
- Analyze films for literary elements and plot development.
- Analyze gender, ethnic, and cultural roles in films for Hollywood’s & Society’s perspective of these roles.

Course Requirements:

- There will be some reading required for the class. I will provide all articles and essays. Each cycle students will need to complete a major project. These projects will relate to the films we have studied.
- All assignments will be submitted to OneNote.
- For each unit, I will provide a list of films. You will need to select a required number of films from that list. If you do not have access to watching your chosen movie at home, you must speak to me.
 - I will show one film from this list each week in my room during lunch on specified days of the week. Feel free to come in and watch, but only if you have returned the parent permission form.

Course Policies:

- Every student has an opinion and is entitled to freely express his or her opinion. I will not tolerate any disrespect towards another student or myself. Disciplinary action will be taken if you cannot follow this simple guideline.
- All assignments are found in OneNote. All work will be turned into OneNote.
- If you are absent, it is up to you to come to me to find out what you missed and to schedule any makeup work. If you missed part of a film, you have the option of coming at lunch to see what you missed or watching it on your own time. *You will be held accountable for the entire film.*

Grading:

- Major Grades (Papers & Projects) – 60%
- Minor Grades (Homework & Classwork) – 40%

Late Work Policy

- All assignments will have specific due dates. You will have one school day to submit late for a maximum of 70.
- You must email me to let me know the late assignment has been submitted.