

English 541/542 – Cinema Visions Course Description

This course allows you to explore film as literature. You will view, analyze, research, read and write about representative films, starting with the silent era and ending with contemporary productions. As you discover films this semester you will study basic film history, vocabulary and production, and compare and contrast literary elements with film elements. By the end of the course, you will be able to analyze and evaluate film critically. If you love to watch films, go to the movies, and have some ideas about what makes a good motion picture then this class is for you!

Course Outline:

Unit 1 – Intro to Film

Essential Questions:

- How has film evolved over time?
- How do writers, artists, and filmmakers organize or construct media-text to convey meaning?
- What does the evolution of cinema mean to you?

Unit 2 – Intro to Film Techniques

Essential Questions:

- What is the language of film?
- How do filmmakers use film techniques to tell a story and create audience response?
- How do film techniques used to tell a story differ from those used in literature?
- How do film techniques influence our understanding of characters, mood, plot, or theme?

Unit 3 – Film Analysis

Essential Questions

- How does viewing film through a critical eye affect the analysis?
- How can media-texts be constructed to support an agenda or interpretation?
- How do you create media-text to influence an audience?

Common Core State Standards for Washington eleventh and twelfth grades

Reading

- Analyze a case in which grasping point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant, e.g., through the use of satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement. (RL.11-12.2)*
- Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text. (RI.11-12.2)

Writing

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. (W.11-12.2)

Speaking and Listening

- Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data. (SL.11-12.2)

Language

- Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text. (L.11-12.5a)

*Individual grade-specific standards can be identified by their strand, grade, and standard number. For example, RL.11-12.2 stands for Reading Literature Text, grades 11-12, standard 2

Materials: All course materials have been approved for district use and are provided to students.

Timelines & Methods for evaluating student progress: Students are expected to log in daily and submit assignments on a weekly basis. Progress will be evaluated each month based progress towards assignment completion of assignments.

This course meets state and district graduation requirements in the area of English. Weekly contact will be conducted through a submitted assignment with instructor feedback. Students who do not submit an assignment are expected to email or call his/her instructor.

Each student is expected to spend a minimum of five hours per week on this course. Additional hours may be necessary to complete the course successfully.