Senior Seminar English -- Film Studies

Ms. Levy-Sisk

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**Course Expectations (Levels 2, 3, 4)**

This course will provide students with a broad overview of analytical and critical approaches to studying film. Through active viewing and discussion, students will study filmmaking techniques and film genres such as: gangster, suspense, documentary, western, war, and disillusionment. Although classroom activities will be drawn from a wide range of subject matter, the recurring focal point for the course is the relationship between Hollywood cinema and American culture. In addition, students will gain an understanding of various film styles and techniques. There will be related reading as well as critical, creative and research-based writing assignments in response to films.

**Film List**

*The Royal Tenenbaums* - Wes Anderson *The Big Lebowski* – The Coen Bothers

*Chicago* – Rob Marshall *Almost Famous* – Cameron Crowe

*Raising Arizona* – The Coen Brothers *Say Anything* – Cameron Crowe

*Psycho* – Alfred Hitchcock *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* –

Michel Gondry

*The Lord of the Rings* – Peter Jackson *Rushmore* – Wes Anderson

*Seven Samurai* – Akira Kurosawa *Lost in Translation* – Sofia Coppola

*Amelie* – Jean-Pierre Jeunet *The Graduate* – Mike Nichols

*Rear Window* – Alfred Hitchcock *Rock School* -- Mike Nichols

*Jaws* – Steven Speilberg *Supersize Me* – Morgan Spurlock

*The Shining* – Stanley Kubrick *Murderball* – Henry Alex Rubin and

Dana Adam Shapiro

*The Silence of the Lambs* – Jonathan Deme *Born Into Brothels* – Zana Briski and

Ross Kauffman

*The Godfather* – Francis Ford Coppola *Control Room* – Jehane Noujaim

*Goodfellas* – Martin Scorsese *Grizzly Man* – Werner Herzog

*The Departed* – Martin Scorcese *Roger and Me* – Michael Moore

*The Addams Family Values* – Barry Sonnenfeld *The Exorcist* – William Friedkin

*The Shawshank Redemption* – Frank Darabont

**Course Requirements**

* Written/viewing homework
* Four major writing assignments per term
* Independent film assignments
* Exams & Quizzes
* Other projects that will be determined to be equivalent to quizzes or tests.

**Materials**

* Three ring binder with 3 different sections (Class Notes, Viewing Notes, Handouts)
* Portable 3 hole punch
* Writing implements (pen ink: black or blue ONLY, pencils will also be needed)
* Any assignments due or current work

**Absences, Missed Work, Tardiness**

Please refer to your Student Handbook on policies concerning attendance and related issues. All HHS rules, regulations and procedures outlined in the handbook apply in class. It is YOUR responsibility to obtain missing work, whether that includes seeing me for materials and/or contacting classmates for missed notes and information. Checking Edmodo.com is your responsibility.

Due to the very nature of this course, missing class is problematic. You are responsible for what goes on in class everyday. Any film excerpts covered in class are fair game for tests and quizzes. You are not allowed to skip the questions for segments that you have not viewed. Since I cannot lend my single copy of any film to you, if you miss a class you must borrow/rent the film on your own. (From the library, Netflix, OnDemand, etc.) You are allowed one day to make up work for each day you are absent. YOU must make arrangements to take missed tests or quizzes.

**Late Work**

Late work is accepted with severe penalties. Homework is accepted ONE day late for half credit. For each day an ESSAY is late will result in a loss of ten points. Those become the MAXIMUM amount of points achievable. After one week, you will receive ½ the points for your essay. (You turn in a paper more than 1 week late, and graded it would have earned an 82 IF it were on time: you will receive 41 points.) After 2 weeks you need special permission to submit essays. The later you paper is, the BETTER it ought to be to maximize your points.

**Please note: All papers MUST be turned in through** [**www.turnitin.com**](http://www.turnitin.com) **ONLY, NO HARD COPIES at the due date. However, once your paper is graded (VIA turnitin) THEN you will print the essay along with the comments and submit the paper for your blue folder. Papers are due on turnitin by the time class starts, if is there AFTER class but by 3pm, you will lose 5 points. After 3 is considered a day late.**

**Grading**

This is fairly simple. Your term grade will be determined as follows:

Homework & Class Participation: 25%

Quizzes: 20 %

Tests: 20%

Papers: 35%