Cosby High School

Syllabus

Contact Information:
Instructor: Ms. Maddy Dawson
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Room: 47

Sign up for Remind App:
Text **@6keg6b3h88** to **81010**

Class Requirements:
Notebook/Binder
Paper
Pencil

Online Resources:

Remind App: This will be used as a primary mode of taking attendance for remote days/ quarantine days, as a primary mode of communication during remote days, and as a primary mode of communication with parents about their child.

Part I: Course Information

This semester we will learn to analyze and study film in the same way we might learn literature. Through discussion, we will examine different aspects of storytelling and the ways in which creative devices can enhance the cinematic experience. Some of the films studied this semester also have accompanying literature we will read.

The following is a suggested film list for our semester. We may not study every film listed, and other films may be added in the future. Truly, this list is meant to encourage further exploration of the genres you are interested in. I will update this list as the class progresses or as changes may be necessary. **Please note: I will also skip certain scenes as necessary.**

Suggested Films List
The Great Train Robbery (1903)
Frankenstein (1910)

Suspense (1913)
The Gold Rush (1925)
It (1927)
Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans (1927)
The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog (1927)
The Jazz Singer (1927)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1938)
Gone With the Wind (1939)
The Wizard of Oz (1939)
Citizen Kane (1941)
A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)
Singin' in the Rain (1952)
Rear Window (1954)
12 Angry Men (1957)
The Sound of Music (1965)
American Graffiti (1973)
Jaws (1975)
Star Wars (1977)
Grease (1978)
E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982)
The Breakfast Club (1985)
Top Gun (1986)
Jurassic Park (1993)
The Lion King (1994)
Harry Potter (2001-2011)
Big Fish (2003)
Iron Man (2008)
Avatar (2009, 2022)
Alice in Wonderland (2010)
Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011)
The Avengers (2012)
La La Land (2016)
Top Gun: Maverick (2022)
The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)
Frozen & *Frozen II* (2013, 2019)
Wall-E (2008)
The Incredibles & *The Incredibles II* (2004, 2018)
Up (2009)
Coraline (2009)
Big Hero 6 (2014)
Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse (2018)
The Lion King (2019)
Top Gun (1986, 2022)

Twister (1996, 2024)
Barbie (2023)

Part II: Course Schedule/Outline*
(*This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change.)

An Introduction to Film Studies
Guiding Question: What is Film Studies?

Unit One: The Birth of Film (The Silent Age)
Unit Question: How did film as a media begin? The world of film first grew as a novelty before it began to be seen as a medium of telling stories. Let's track this transformation.
        Media: *The Great Train Robbery* (1903)
                Frankenstein (1910)
                Suspense (1913)
                The Gold Rush (1925)
                It (1927)
                Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans (1927)
                The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog (1927)

Unit Two: The Golden Age of Film
Unit Question: The shifting culture of the 1930s through the 1960s forced an expansion of the lens within cinema. What pushed American film to grow and change?
        Media: *The Jazz Singer (1927)*
                Snow White and the Seven Dwarves (1938)
                Gone With the Wind (1939)
                The Wizard of Oz (1939)
                Citizen Kane (1941)
                A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)
                Singin' in the Rain (1952)
                Rear Window (1954)
                12 Angry Men (1957)

Unit Three: New Hollywood & Blockbuster Cinema
Unit Question: By the 1970s, American culture had completely transformed. How did the film industry adapt and reflect these changes?
        Media: *The Sound of Music* (1965)
                American Graffiti (1973)
                Jaws (1975)
                Star Wars (1977)
                Grease (1978)
                E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982)
                The Breakfast Club (1985)
                Top Gun (1986)
                Jurassic Park (1993)
                The Lion King (1994)

Unit Four: Realism & Fantasy

Unit Question: Fantastic narrative with relatable characters have taken over cinema by the 1990s. In what ways has film become a form of escapism?

        Media: *Harry Potter* (2001-2011)

            Big Fish (2003)

            Iron Man (2008)

            Avatar (2009)

            Alice in Wonderland (2010)

            Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011)

            The Avengers (2012)

            La La Land (2016)

            Top Gun: Maverick (2022)

Unit Five: The Evolving World of Animation

Unit Question: The evolution of technology has provided endless possibilities for animation. What other aspects have influenced the success, popularity, and growth of animated film?

Media: *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)

Frozen & *Frozen II* (2013, 2019)

            Wall-E (2008)

            The Incredibles & *The Incredibles II* (2004, 2018)

            Up (2009)

            Coraline (2009)

            Big Hero 6 (2014)

            Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse (2018)

            The Lion King (2019)

Final Projects

Plagiarism Policy:

According to the Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition: Plagiarism is defined as "presenting someone else's ideas, research, or opinions as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased." This includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying verbatim all or part of another's written work
- Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source
- Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source
- Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.

Consequences of plagiarism include:

- Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accept a letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents are to be involved in making the decision.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Students may use AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or QuillBot) for brainstorming, drafting assistance, grammar checks, and idea development. **However, all submitted work must reflect the student's own understanding, voice, and critical thinking.**

Guidelines for AI Use:
- Generating ideas, outlines, and topic suggestions
- Grammar and spelling assistance
- Style and clarity suggestions
- Research guidance (must verify sources)

🚫 **Not Allowed:**
- Submitting AI-generated essays, analyses, or responses as original work
- Using AI to bypass reading assignments or critical thinking tasks
- Copying AI-generated content without revision or personal input

Academic Integrity:

Any work that relies excessively on AI without meaningful student engagement may be considered plagiarism. If unsure, students should consult the instructor before using AI.

AI should be a tool for learning, not a substitute for effort. Use it responsibly to enhance—not replace—your writing skills.

<u>Religion in the Classroom:</u>

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion - and not of religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Religious themes may be a part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
2. The inclusion of religion shall be for educational purposes only;1
3. The emphasis on religious themes should be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of the curriculum. Such studies shall never be used to proselytize, establish, foster, or demean any particular religion, religious tenets, or beliefs; and1
4. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated.