**Spring 2025 Film Criticism Syllabus**

Film Criticism

Mr. Gillespie, Room 205

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Course Description

Film Criticism will introduce students to the film industry and history of cinema through the study of classic and contemporary films. Emphasis will be placed on exposing the class to a wide variety of styles and genres as well as formulating and justifying criticisms of the works. Written analyses and participation in class discussions will be requirements for successful completion of the course.

Supplies

- Supplies for taking notes on films.

- Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Video, or similar video on demand accounts are not required, but these may be useful for makeup screenings or further film exploration at home. In the event you miss a day or more of a viewing in class, it is your responsibility to watch that part of the film on your time.

Grading

40% Participation (film screening discussions, observation notes, paying attention during viewings, etc.)

60% Film Reviews

Routines

* Written observations on films will be kept in a variety of methods throughout the year.
* Students will be allowed multiple opportunities for additional instruction and revision in order to achieve mastery of relevant skills and content.
* The assignment calendar is in Google Classroom and on my website.
* If you miss a day or more of a class film screening, you will be required to complete the makeup assignment to earn back credit for that film’s participation grade.
* If you are absent, it is your responsibility to collect any makeup work you may have missed. You have 5 school days to complete and turn in your makeup work.
* Class will be starting on time, so please do not be tardy as you will not only be missing essential material, but you will also be disrupting others in the class. Students who are late to class will be marked tardy. Three tardies will result in Saturday school, **so please use the time before class starts to use the restroom.**
* **Students are allowed to leave class three times per quarter. After three times, students will be required to attend WIN time for five minutes for each additional restroom break.**
* Food and drinks are prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise instructed. Water is allowed in clear containers, but this privilege will be revoked if spills and trash become problematic.

Please contact me if you have any issue or concern with the film materials being presented in class. Please read and discuss this syllabus with your parents.

I’m looking forward to a fun, exciting and rewarding semester. Thanks!

**Tentative film schedule on back.**

**Film Schedule (subject to change):**

**All films are either G, PG or PG-13**

3rd Quarter:

The Golden Age of Hollywood

Focus:

* Historical and cultural context

Films: *The Wizard of Oz* (1939)

 *Casablanca* (1942)

Sports Genre & the Underdog

Focus:

* The sports film ‘formula’

Films: *Rocky* (1978)

 *Creed* (2015)

Horror

Focus: What scares you?

Films: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920)

 *Frankenstein* (1931)

 *The Ring* (2002)

4th Quarter:

Comedy

Focus:

* Deadpan comedy

Films: *The General* (1926)

*Napoleon Dynamite* (2004)

Animation

Focus:

* History of Animation

Films: *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937)

 *Toy Story* (1995)