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The texts for this course will primarily be classic films, that is, films that are critically acclaimed and/or offer particular insights into the art of film. The emphases in the course are thoughtful "reading" or viewing of the films, analyzing (discovering how film techniques relate to meanings) and comparing films, categorizing films based on "the fictional spectrum" and "archetypal plots," and seeking to understand the relevance of all of the above. Along the way, students will also gain a basic understanding of the evolution of the medium as well as the wide range of jobs that go into the making of any feature film.

Topics

- 1 **Film as Art: Escape vs. Interpretation**
- 2 **The Art of Cinematography**
- 3 **Silent Film & The Transition to Sound**
- 4 **The Introduction of Color**
- 5 **Archetypal Plots: Comedy, Tragedy, Romance, Satire/Irony**
- 6 **Mise-en-scène & Montage**
- 7 **The Art of Editing**
- 8 **Other Fundamental Elements of Film**
- 9 **The Fictional Spectrum: From Documentary to Fantasy**
- 10 **Style & Substance, Form & Content in Selected Films**

Introduction to Film: Guidelines and Expectations, Spring, 2010, Mr. Barnes

day: any texts specified for that day, your notebook
plenty of paper, and a pencil and pen.

Please come into class quietly, get any materials you need, and quickly prepare to work.

Participate actively, thoughtfully, and constructively in all activities.

Show respect for all your classmates and teachers.

Please do not talk or make noise when I ask for quiet or am speaking.

Return books and other materials to their proper places at the end of class.

Keep all of your work, and put it in the proper place.

Do not write on or deface any materials or equipment.

Please don't leave class not understanding an assignment.

There should be no food or drink visible in class.

Do not show cell phones or other such devices; we are told to confiscate them.

Absences

If you know you're going to miss school, tell me as soon as possible and ask me for assignments before the absence; and, after any absence, check with me after class about work you've missed.

It's your responsibility to find out about assignments and to make them up quickly. All missed work should be made up as soon as possible and definitely within 10 class days. Do not interrupt class about make-up work.

Tardies

Dorman has a definite sequence of consequences for tardiness. If you arrive after the tardy bell without a note, you are tardy.

Misbehavior

Dorman also has a strong disciplinary policy that is enforced. Punishments escalate with the frequency or seriousness of the offense.

Evaluation and Grades

The most important part of this course is careful reading of the films we watch. It is important to note that films, unlike most other texts, keep moving and therefore make great demands on the attention of the audience. If you pay close attention to the films, you should do quite well; if you don't, you won't. Remember that reading and listening, the crucial receptive arts, are basically invisible; you must show what you are thinking and learning through your writing, speaking, and other modes of expression. Your grade for each term will be determined as indicated below. Each term counts 45%, and the exam 10%.

40% - tests, compositions, & projects (Be sure you understand the task and the criteria.)

30% - classwork/homework/quizzes on the films (which reward attentive watching and listening)

30% - participation (thoughtful, consistent, & constructive involvement in all activities; not sleeping; following directions; not distracting anyone)

Assignments are due on the dates assigned; there will be substantial penalties for late major assignments, generally one letter grade per day. Homework may not be turned in late. (In the event of a personal or family emergency that prevented you from completing your work, bring a note from a parent.) Take pride in your work, learn from each assignment, and keep developing your understanding of film and its relationship to our world. Your attitude and effort are the most important factors in your education. I hope you will aspire to do your best, even if the results aren't always what you hoped for. Keep making the connection between the present and your long-term goals, and maintain a healthy ambition to learn first and earn grades second.



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daughter this year in **Introduction to Film**. He or she has a set of guidelines and a list of possible films, and I would appreciate your taking time to read these and to let me know if you have any concerns. Films are chosen for their artistic merit and/or to illustrate important aspects of film. Please contact me anytime you feel the need. You may e-mail me at barnestw@spart6.org or call me at 582-4347, extension 2128; this contact information is also on the DHS website at www.dormanhigh.org. Please sign below to indicate that you have seen the attached guidelines and list of films, and have your son or daughter return this form to me. Thank you.

Student's Name: _____

Class Period: ____

Phone #:

A Parent's Signature: _____

e-mail: