

**Syllabus**  
**Film Study I**  
**Mr. Nichols**  
**Perry High School**  
**Fall 2013**

**Course Description:** This course offers a panoramic overview of the development of film from the first celluloid to the silent shorts with icons like Charlie Chaplin, through the studio boom in the 1930's-1950's into the "Hollywood Renaissance" of the 1960's and 1970's. The students will be able to master film vocabulary and concepts while learning to formulate rich interpretations in analysis through written and verbal critiques. The students will examine the fundamental elements of film including narrative form, cinematography, editing and sound. The students will also examine the cultural aspects of film and be able to relate these aspects to the growth of the industry.

**Films:** See the attached list of films we may view. All of the above films are rated G-PG 13.

**Grades:** Grade point values will be assigned for each film/project/quiz/exam. Considerable writing will be required. There will be occasional opportunities for extra credit. Grades are posted regularly on line and in the classroom by student number.

**Rules/Norms/Behavior Expectations**

- Students are expected to pay full attention to the film and participate fully in all class activities and discussions
- Students will remain awake during films
- Students will be respectful of the teacher and of one another. There will be **NO TALKING** during a film.
- No gum, food or drink is allowed in the room (other than water in a sealed container)
- No cell phones/I pods or other electronic devices are allowed
- The school dress code must be followed.
- Restrooms should be used before class. No restroom passes will be issued during the first half of the class period. **There will be no breaks on block days. You may use the restroom one at a time after the first 30 minutes of class.**
- Students will have fun!

If a student violates any of the above rules he/she will be subject to disciplinary action which may include a conference with the teacher, standing the remainder of the period, loss of electronic device for the day, a parent phone call, a disciplinary referral or any combination of the above. If a student continues to

violate the rules a parent/administration/teacher/student conference will be scheduled to determine whether or not the student should remain in the class.

### **Film Study Notebook**

It is essential that you keep all of the study guides that you are given and notes that you create in the course. I strongly urge you to use a loose leaf binder for this purpose. **All of the questions for the final exam come directly from your film notes and study guides.**

### **Film Study Notes: Some Guidelines**

1. Fill in the blanks. You will not be given credit for incomplete answers.
2. **Use complete sentences.**
3. **Be specific.** Explicit examples from the film are needed to prove you actually paid attention
4. **Write in a legible and reasonable size.** Text that is too big makes you appear lazy. Text that is microscopically small irritates the old man. Scribbling is wasted. If I can't read it, you don't get credit for it.
5. Support your opinions. If you didn't like a film give specific examples as to why you didn't like it. If you loved a film, give specific examples about why it was good. Responses such as "I didn't like it because it wasn't in color" or "I liked it because it was fun" say nothing. Try to come up with an intelligent answer.
6. Keep it relevant. Every good work of arts imparts some kind of message. Always make a serious effort to determine how a film may relate to you personally
7. Always keep in mind the historical setting of the film. Think about what was going on in the world at the time and how the film reflects the values, struggles and hopes of people of the era. Just listing "it was during the war" is not applying it to the time. There must be some cause and effect.
8. Be on time. Film notes are due when the film ends. Film notes handed in late will receive only half credit.

### **Make Up Work and Absences**

I understand that some absences are unavoidable and necessary. However, please understand that it is impossible to replace the experience of actually seeing a film. It is vitally important that you keep your absences at a minimum.

**If you have 11 more absences no matter what your grade is in the class you will not receive credit unless the hours and movies missed are made up after school.**

Make up will be accepted for **excused** absences only. Assignments missed due to unexcused absences will receive a score of zero. If you miss a film due to an **excused** absence the following making up procedure applies:

1. At home or in the library go to the following website and look up the film. [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) This internet movie data base is an excellent source of information about the film (I get most of the study guides directly from IMDB). **Read the complete synopsis of the movie. Use this information to create your notes.**
2. **If at all possible, rent or find the movie** online and watch the part you missed. Again, nothing can replace the experience of actually seeing the film.
5. Complete your notes and **hand them in the next day** (They must be in ON TIME to receive full credit). You have one extra day to complete your notes and hand them in. For example, if you are absent on Monday and we finished the film on Monday then your notes would be due on Wednesday. **All late assignments will receive half credit!!!!**

### **Contact Information**

My direct phone extension is 480-224-2964

My district email address is [fountain.james@chandler.k12.az.us](mailto:fountain.james@chandler.k12.az.us)

**Video/DVD Approval Form – This form must be returned the second day of the class!!!!**

**For the student: I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR FILM STUDY I.**

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STUDENT NAME (PRINTED)

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STUDENT SIGNATURE

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Date

**For the parent/guardian: I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR FILM STUDY AND GIVE PERMISSION FOR MY CHILD  
TO WATCH THE FILMS ON THE FILM LIST.**

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PARENT (PRINTED)

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PARENT SIGNATURE

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DATE

