

Film Study I Fall 2019  
Mr. Benjamin Sampayan  
Perry High School  
sampayan.benjamin@cusd80.com

**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, mise-en-scène, sound, editing, and cinematography. 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 listed films are rated G – PG13, or an equivalent. ***Some films do contain mature material. Students are expected to approach this material in a mature manner.***

**Grades:** The semester exam will account for 20% of your grade. The remainder will be divided as follows: 45% Assignments, 35% Tests, and 20% Daily Prep and Participation

**Normal Behavior Expectations:**

- Give full attention to the film that is being viewed. Stay awake!
- Talking, texting, sleeping, or otherwise distracting the class in any way during a film is not permitted and will not be tolerated.
- Form an opinion and be prepared to share it.
- Show respect to your fellow peers. Bashing opinions you do not agree with and those who hold them is not permitted. Thoughtful and respectful discourse, however, is encouraged.
- Be on time. Tardiness will be recorded. On the fourth tardy a referral will be written per school policy.
- Gum, food, or drink is not allowed in the classroom with the exception of water in a sealed container.
- No cell phones, mp3 players, or other electronic devices are allowed unless explicitly stated by the instructor for educational purposes only.

If a student violates any of the above rules they 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 as well as all notes you create in this course. It is strongly recommended that you use a binder for this purpose. *Film notes will be allowed on the final exam* (print-outs of the PowerPoints are NOT permitted).

**Film Notes 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 is difficult to read. Scribbling is wasted.
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; formulate an intelligent answer.
6. Keep it relevant. Every good work of art 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. Merely stating, "It was during the war" is not applying it to the time. There must be some cause and effect.
8. Film notes are due when the film ends unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Film notes turned in late will receive half credit.

**Makeup Work and Absences:** Some absences are unavoidable and necessary, however, please understand that it is impossible to replace the experience of actually seeing a film. It is crucial that you keep your absences to a minimum. If you have eleven or more absences, no matter your grade, you will not receive credit unless the hours and movies missed are made up after school.

Makeup work will be accepted at full credit for *excused absences only*. Assignments missed due to unexcused absences will receive half credit. If you miss a film due to an absence, the following procedure applies:

1. At home or in the library go to [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) and/or [www.filmsite.org](http://www.filmsite.org) to look up the film. These internet movie databases are excellent sources of information about the film. Read the complete synopsis of the film and use this information to create your notes.
2. If at all possible rent or find the movie online and watch the part(s) you missed. Again, nothing can replace the experience of actually seeing the film.
3. Complete your notes and turn them in the next day (they must be turned 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.

## Film List:

Landmarks of Early Film	(1888-1905)	Citizen Kane	1941
Hugo	2011	Casablanca	1942
The Artist	2011	Bambi	1942
The Great Train Robbery	1903	Meet Me in St. Louis	1944
Birth of a Nation	1915	Double Indemnity	1944
Intolerance	1916	It's a Wonderful Life	1946
Greed	1924	The Best Years of Our Lives	1946
The Gold Rush	1925	A Gentlemen's Agreement	1947
The General	1926	The Treasure of the Sierra Madre	1948
The Jazz Singer	1927	Sunset Boulevard	1950
All Quiet on the Western Front	1930	All About Eve	1950
Dracula	1931	An American in Paris	1951
M	1931	A Streetcar Named Desire	1951
King Kong	1933	African Queen	1951
Duck Soup	1933	Singin' in the Rain	1952
42nd Street	1933	High Noon	1952
It Happened One Night	1934	Shane	1953
Top Hat	1935	Roman Holiday	1953
Mutiny on the Bounty	1935	From Here to Eternity	1953
Bride of Frankenstein	1935	Sabrina	1954
A Star is Born	1937	On the Waterfront	1954
Heidi	1937	Rear Window	1954
Snow White (Disney)	1937	Rebel without a Cause	1955
The Adventures of Robin Hood	1938	The Night of the Hunter	1955
Bringing Up Baby	1938	The Searchers	1956
Gone With the Wind	1939	Bridge on the River Kwai	1957
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington	1939	Bell Brook and Candle	1958
The Wizard of Oz	1939	Gigi	1958
His Girl Friday	1940	Vertigo	1958
The Philadelphia Story	1940	Ben Hur	1959
The Grapes of Wrath	1940	Some Like it Hot	1959
The Mask of Zorro	1940	North by Northwest	1959
Fantasia	1940	Rio Bravo	1959
Maltese Falcon	1941		

**FOR THE STUDENT: I have read and understand the requirements and expectations for Film Study I**

---

STUDENT NAME (PRINTED)

---

STUDENT SIGNATURE

---

DATE

**FOR THE PARENT/GUARDIAN: I have read and understand the requirements for Film Study I and give permission for my child to watch the films on the film list.**

---

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (PRINTED)

---

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

---

DATE