



## Grand Haven High School



**Course Number:** B67

**Grade Level:** 10-12

**Credits :** .5

**Prerequisite Courses :** n/a

### Course Description

Film is a part of everyday life for most of us. We watch movies on cable, we rent movies online or from the video store, and we flock in large numbers to see new films open in the theaters. We all have our favorite and least favorite movie lists. We are quick to pass judgment and share our impromptu reviews. It is our familiarity with the world of film that becomes the purpose of film analysis.

This course will teach students how to become active viewers or readers of film. Students will be introduced to the basic terminology and concepts used in the critical study and analysis of film, and look at the aesthetic and ideological elements that make up the language of cinema. While we will be watching numerous movies together this semester, please know that this course will also require that students watch those movies more closely than they may have before. There will be daily writing assignments, numerous reading assignments, and multiple formal papers.

### Course Objectives

- Learn & apply literary terminology (characterization, setting, theme, etc...)
- Learn & use close reading & viewing skills
- Hone analytical writing skills
- Use research to discover & support (MLA format)
- Explore the cultural significance & historical context of films

### Student Expectations

\*RESPECT: This classroom is a community of learners. In order for our community to function smoothly everyone must be able to comfortably express him or herself. We benefit tremendously from the ideas and opinions of others. We should all be able to share our input without fear of disrespect. Part of what makes discussing movies so enjoyable is hearing how each person viewed the film, or how each person responded emotionally and why. In order for this enlightened conversation to take place, we must be respectful one another so that all students feel comfortable sharing.

#### Building Behavioral Expectations

***TEAM GH ... One Team, One Family, One Grand Haven. Be Kind. Always.***

It is our expectation that ALL GHHS students, staff and parents will ... always give their best **EFFORT** in everything that they do, work hard to be **INCLUSIVE** of each other, show **RESPONSIBILITY** in class, the hallways, cafeteria and at events, and **WORK TOGETHER** at all times!

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\*PARTICIPATION & PREPAREDNESS: You will be earning regular viewing participation points, as well as earning points for your viewing notes and reflection pieces. We learn more when we ourselves participate. In order to participate readily, you will need your notes from each movie to use in class discussion and on various writing assignments. Discussion will only work if you participate. You have knowledgeable and insightful things to say – say them. This is a community of learners and you will learn from your peers' participation, as they in turn will learn from.

\*EFFORT on ALL assignments. You will get out of this class exactly and only what you put into it. If you put forth your best effort you will not only succeed in this class, but take away increased knowledge as well. Due to the fact that I am asking that you put forth your best effort, I expect that you will turn in ALL of your work on time. This goes for daily in-class work, homework, and writing assignments. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. As cheating and plagiarism are enemies of effort, neither will be tolerated and both will result in failing grades. Contrary to popular belief copying someone else's work IS cheating. If you are caught copying another student's work, you will BOTH receive a zero for that assignment.

\*ADVOCATE for yourself. Ask questions if you have them. One of the most frustrating things I encounter as a teacher is students who get lost or confused and don't ask for help. I cannot read your minds. If you need something from me, then you need to let me know. I want you to be successful and will do whatever I can to help make that happen. If you don't understand a lecture or assignment then get the clarification that you need.

While our expectations are high, we truly believe that each and every one of you is capable of living up to them. As these are our expectations of you, you may hold us to them as well. You can expect us to be respectful toward each and every one of you – your feelings and your efforts. We will be organized and prepared in our daily lessons. We will be fair in my assessments, and prompt with our feedback. We will be supportive of you in your efforts as you work and learn in this class. If you feel we are not living up to any of these expectations please let us know (politely), and we will work to remedy the situation.

\*We will be creating a class contract for this course together as a class so that you can give your input too.

## Communication

See Grand Haven Website for contact information for individual teachers

## Grading Policy

- Participation - 60%

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Each day, students will be expected to participate with in-class discussions (partner, small group, or class). Film Analysis is predicated on sharing opinions and providing support from each individual film. Students are also expected to keep a daily note log.

- Assessments and Written Responses - 40%

Students will be expected complete formal assessments and/or written assignments at the conclusion of each thematic unit of study.

- Participation and Assessment scores will account for 80% of the overall grade.

- Final Exam - 20%

The final exam will consist of a presentation component in which students will analyze and present findings of a specific film/director.

## Scope and Sequence

Themes and Genres covered within the course:

- “Techniques of Suspense”
- “How to Tell a Story” (Point of View)
- “Coming of Age”
- “Feminist Theory & Film”
- “The Role of Genre: Sci-Fi Dystopia”
- “Stereotypes/Race/Prejudice”
- “Ethics and Justice”
- “Foreign Films”
- “Family’ Films”
- “True Stories”
- "Documentaries"
- “War Movies”
- “High School Experience”

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- “Iconic Villians”
- “The Contemporary Fairy Tale”

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