

ROSLYN HIGH SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH

NAME OF COURSE: FILM AND LITERATURE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

This elective has as its specific purpose the expansion of the student's perceptiveness and critical abilities. Films are examined with the aim of helping students add to their literary insight the understanding of visual and aural components often essential to the composite meaning of film. The focus is on the three major elements of film: camera work, editing and mise-en-scene, or the “theatrical” elements of film like lighting, music and costume.

MAJOR TOPICS COVERED

- ***The Language of Film***
Students learn the “vocabulary” and the “grammar” of film language. Examples from the entire history of American and world cinema are used as models.
- ***The Directors and the Genres***
The two major thematic focuses of the class are on the directors who turned film into an art form, and the genres that have captivated movie audiences for generations. The course covers directors from Hollywood’s classic period (Hitchcock, John Ford, Billy Wilder), from the Hollywood New Wave of the 1970’s (Scorsese, Coppola, Spielberg and Lucas) and from directors working today (Chris Nolan, David Fincher, etc.) In the genre section of the class, students study the history and development of some of our most popular genres, including westerns, musicals, science fiction and *film noir*. Through this study, students become active, analytical viewers who come to appreciate film as both an art form and as an entertainment medium.
- ***Composition***
Expository or critical essays generated by viewing follow thesis through successive paragraphs to a conclusion. A process writing approach allows for revision. Opportunity is also provided for interdisciplinary and authentic assessment projects.

FILMS INCLUDE:

Citizen Kane
The Grapes of Wrath
The Killers
Casablanca
Double Indemnity
Vertigo
The Right Stuff

The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance
The Matrix
Memento
Singin' in the Rain

REQUIREMENTS

Compositions, critical commentaries, projects, and individual or group presentations are employed as they coordinate with the units studied.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades depend on major papers, projects and class participation.