

Digital Film: A Course in Film Criticism and Analysis

Course #:

Fall 2018

2018-2019 School Year

Instructor: S. Manas

Learning Standards:

Course Objective:

Students will be able to understand the basics of film analysis, cinematic elements, genre, and narrative structure. Students will develop the skills to recognize, analyze, describe and enjoy film as an art and entertainment form, while recognizing how those films reflect, comment on, and impact society, both presently and at the time the film was released.

New York State Learning Standards for the Arts

Learning Standard 3: Students will reflect on, interpret, and evaluate plays and theatrical performances, both live and recorded, using the language of dramatic criticism. Students will analyze the meaning and role of theatre in society. Students will identify ways in which drama/theatre connects to film and video, other arts, and other disciplines.

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.2

Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.7

Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (Include at least one play by Shakespeare and one play by an American dramatist.)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.1

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.4

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks.

Course Description:

Students will be introduced to basics of film analysis, cinematic elements, genre, and narrative structure. Students will then go on to analyze six important films from a variety of theoretical perspectives, looking to society at the time the film was made, themes of the movie, and cinematic elements to further their understanding of the films.

Calendar:**

Class Number	Classwork	Homework
1	Introduction to Film Criticism	<i>Desperately Seeking Susan</i> reading and answer questions. Due class # 3.
2	Introduction to Film Criticism	
3	Introduction to <i>Desperately Seeking Susan</i>	
4	Watch <i>Desperately Seeking Susan</i> and take notes	
5	Watch <i>Desperately Seeking Susan</i> and take notes	
6	Watch <i>Desperately Seeking Susan</i> and take notes	<i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i> reading and answer questions. Due class # 8.
7	Finish <i>Desperately Seeking Susan</i> and begin working on	

	worksheets in pairs	
8	Finish worksheet in pairs	Finish worksheet if not finished in class. Due class #9.
9	Introduction to <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i>	
10	Watch <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i> and take notes	
11	Watch <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i> and take notes	
12	Watch <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i> and take notes	
13	Watch <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i> and take notes	
14	Finish <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i> and begin working on worksheets in pairs	<i>District 9</i> reading and questions. Due class #16
15	Finish worksheets in pairs	Finish worksheets if not completed. Due class #17
16	Introduction to <i>District 9</i>	
17	Watch <i>District 9</i> and take notes	
18	Watch <i>District 9</i> and take notes	
19	Finish <i>District 9</i> and begin worksheets in pairs.	<i>Nosedive</i> reading and questions. Due class #21
20	Finish worksheets in pairs	Finish worksheets if not completed. Due

		class #22
21	Introduction to <i>Nosedive</i> .	
22	Watch <i>Nosedive</i> and take notes	
23	Watch <i>Nosedive</i> and take notes	
24	Finish <i>Nosedive</i> and begin worksheets in pairs.	
25	Finish worksheets in pairs	Finish worksheets if not completed. Due class #27
26	PBA	Makeup work and PBA
27	PBA	Makeup work and PBA
28	PBA	Makeup work and PBA
29	PBA	Makeup work and PBA
30	PBA	Makeup work and PBA
31	PBA	Makeup work and PBA
32	PBA	Makeup work and PBA
33	Presentations	Makeup work and PBA
34	Presentations	
35	Make up work	

****subject to change based on student needs****

Materials and Texts:

- “How to Talk Like a Film Critic: Glossary of Film Terms”
- “Why *Desperately Seeking Susan* is One of My Favorite Films” by Alex Kittle
- “Get Into the Groove: *Desperately Seeking Susan* and Genre Revision”
- “What Else is Lost with Memory Loss? Memory and Identity in *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*” by Gemma King
- “Becoming the Alien: Apartheid, Racism, & *District 9*”
- “What Psychology Actually Says About the Tragically Social-Media Obsessed Society in *Black Mirror*” by Erin Brodwin
- “*Black Mirror*’s Third Season Opens with a Vicious Take on Social Media” by Tasha Robinson
- *Desperately Seeking Susan*
- *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*

- *District 9*
- *Nosedive* (short film from *Black Mirror*)

Grading Policy:

Project Based Assessment -25%

Students will be assigned a project based assessment as a final. Students will have a choice of five important films to choose from. Students may either write a 5 page paper with a powerpoint presentation for the class or create a video which they will present to the class.

Film Worksheets – 25%

A film worksheet will be completed for every film we watch in class while the film is being viewed. These worksheets will contain short answer questions about cinematic elements, themes, etc. Worksheets are due the class period after we finish viewing the movie. You will either receive a 100% for having completed it with clear effort or a 0 for having not completed it. Worksheets must show an effort has been made to be considered complete.

Homework – 10%

For homework, you will either receive a 100% for having completed it with clear effort or a 0 for having not completed it. Homework must show an effort has been made to be considered complete.

Attendance – 20%

You must come to class and you must be on time. You will receive 2 points (100%) for being present and on time, 1 point (50%) for being late, and zero points (0%) for an unexcused absence or cut.

Participation – 20%

When you are in class please participate. This is an easy way to boost your grade.

Classroom Procedures:

Students are expected to be in class, on time, and ready to work. There is a bathroom in the classroom that students may use. If a student needs the nurse, the Dean, the unit coordinator, or to go to the main office, they will be allowed to go and provided a pass at the teacher and para's discretion.

The students will participate in the lesson. As the period comes to a close, the teacher will go over their behavioral points with the students, asking them first what they think they earned and then telling them what they actually earned. The rules and point policies are detailed in the next section.

Class Rules and Behavior:*School Rules:*

Students may not wear hats or bandanas in school. They may not bring weapons, drugs, alcohol, or any illegal paraphenalia into the school building. Students must attend school and be on time. Cell phones and other non-approved technology must be turned off and away while in class unless otherwise instructed.

Classroom Rules:

Rules are clearly posted in the classroom and are as follows:

1. Listen to your teachers and paras.
2. Keep your hands (and all other body parts) to yourself.
3. Be respectful of your peers and teachers.
4. Avoid side conversation.

Behavioral System:

For every period a student is in class they are eligible to receive up to 4 behavioral points, one for each rule they follow. These points will be recorded on a monthly behavioral points sheet. At the end of the month, if they have received an average of 3 points for the month, they will receive a reward to enjoy while they work or at a later time.

Academic Policies:

At Manahattan High School at The Beacon School students are expected to perform their work with integrity and honesty. In this course, cheating, plagiarism, disruptions of

instructional activity, fraud and/or lying may result in a failing grade of "F" for the assignment. Additionally, any attempts to hand in work from another class or work done at a previous school may also result in a failing grade of "F" for the assignment