

Social Issues Through Media

Syllabus

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Unit Topics

1. Death Penalty/ Crime and Punishment
2. Religion, Racism and Hate and Tolerance
3. Self Image, Pop Culture, Privacy Issues and Intellectual Property
4. Technology (society, ethics and morals)
5. Civil Rights and Social Freedoms
6. Cloning, Medical Issues and Mental Illness
7. Terrorism and War, Politics and Economics

*Order of units subject to change due to flow of the course and current issues and events.

Assessments

Topic Research /Current Events	25%
Edmodo Responses	10%
Topic Essays	40%
Movie Review x 2 (midterm and Final)	25%

Course Description

The goal of Social Issues Through Media is to understand & comprehend the major social issues, themes and ideas of the 20th and 21st century through the medium of film. This semester long course will examine religion, economics, government, politics, tolerance, death penalty, self image, social freedoms and other socially relevant topics. The medium of film will be used to generate discussion & increase comprehension and understanding of these events and their impact on the world that we live in today.

You are expected to participate in class discussions, read primary source and ancillary documents, do independent research and complete writing assignments during the semester. You will need to have internet access outside of school as well as access to a computer and word-processing.

Work Policy:

Students will be required to submit work on the due date. If a student has an **excused** absence, that student may make up the work with no penalty, provided that the student brings in a note from the office upon returning to class. ***It is the student's responsibility to approach the teacher to obtain all work missed for an excused absence.*** Students with an excused absence will receive an extension on a due date equal to the number of days missed. **However, if you are absent the day before a quiz or test you will still be expected to take the test with the class on its assigned day.** Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a zero grade. **Also, if a trend of continuous absences is noted on days of major assignments (tests, quizzes, etc), it is at the teacher's discretion to offer an alternative assessment.**

If a student submits an assignment late, the penalty is as follows. **For assignments turned in 1 day late, a 30% reduction in the final score will be applied. For assignments turned in 2 or more days late, a 50% reduction in the final score will be applied.** While this penalty is stiff, it is still absolutely in the

student's best interests to turn in assignments late, rather than not at all. Half-credit is drastically better than a 0 (which can ruin a course average), and students are not eligible for recovery unless they have submitted all class assignments. I accept late work at any time until ten (10) days before the end of the semester. Please refer to the handbook for more details on this policy.

Extensions and percentages on late work may be changed or amended on a case by case basis at the teacher's discretion.

Recovery Policy

See Northview Student Handbook.

Honor Code:

See Northview Student Handbook.

Goals of the Course

Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the basic chronology of events, concepts, themes, & trends as well as their impact on not only their region but all aspects of the world. Students are expected to develop an understanding of social issues that relate directly and indirectly to their daily lives, the United States and the world.

Media and Films

Due to the many of the topics covered in this class it is offered only to upperclassmen students. Please review the list of films below and have your parent or guardian review the list and sign the attached permission form. There will be alternative assessments given for students whose parent/guardian do not approve of a particular film.

Films and Media to be viewed.

Death Penalty/ Crime and Punishment

Angel on Death Row Frontline PBS

Inside Man R

Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills NR

Select Scenes from Oceans 11, The Italian Job, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Fight Club

Religion

Fall From Grace Westboro Church

Decoding the Past Dangerous Devotions
Documentary History Channel

Going Clear: Scientology HBO Documentary

Angles and Demons PG13

Contact PG

Religulous

Racism, Hate and Anti Semitism

Select Scenes from Star Trek Original TV show
Rated PG

Star Trek - The Original Series, Episode 70: Let
That Be Your Last Battlefield Rated PG

The KKK a Secret History the History Channel NR

Grand Torino Rated R

American History X Rated R

Self Image

America the Beautiful Documentary Rated R

Clueless PG13 or X-Men: First Class PG13

Cloning, Medical Issues and Mental Illness

Gattica PG-13

Godsend PG-13

Silence of the Lambs Rated R

How to Die in Oregon

Civil Rights and Social Freedoms

You Can't Say That ABC News Special

Video Surveillance in the UK BBC Special

Enemy of the State PG-13

V for Vendetta Rated R

Tolerance

Finding Forrester PG-13

Bird Cage PG-13

Frankie and Grace TV HBO

Pop Culture , Privacy Issues and Intellectual Property Social Issues through Comedy

Teenage Paparazzo Documentary NR

The Social Network PG13

The 5th Estate PG13

Citizen Four HBO Documentary

Terrorism and War

Frontline: The Al Qaeda Files Documentary NR

PBS Frontline Rumsfeld's War Documentary NR

Body of Lies Rated R

The Green Zone Rated R

Politics and Economics

Capitalism A Love Story Rated R

WikiSecretes PBS Frontline NR

Wag the Dog Rated R

Technology (society, ethics and morals)

PBS Frontline Digital Nation NR

Surrogates PG-13

Blade Runner Rated R

I Robot PG-13

Minority Report PG-13

News and internet news sources and clips from YouTube which are readily available from the internet will be shown and or viewed at home or in other locations.

This list may change due to availability of media as well as due to changes in discussion topics. Since this class is based on social issues current events play a major role in the class thus changes may be made to reflect the world situation.

Social Issues Through Media

PG, PG-13, R Rated Movie and Media Permission Form

Dear Parent or Guardian,

During the course of the class movies and other media will be shown that are rated PG, PG-13 or R. These scenes, clips and movies are related to specific themes in the course. The list can be viewed on your child's syllabus and should be reviewed before you sign below. These films as well as others appropriate clips, documentaries and films have content that tie directly to the course material and topics and are an integral part of this class in regards to understanding and allowing for through provoking informed discussion. By signing below you will allow your child to view rated movies or scenes in class.

By signing below you give permission for your child to view movies, scenes from movies, clips, news broadcasts and internet video that are deemed appropriate to the the Social Issues class.

Students Name

Parents Signature

Date

Movies for Movie Reviews (Must choose from different topics)

If the movie is viewed in class you man NOT use it for your review.

1. Death Penalty/ Crime and Punishment
 - a. Capote
 - b. Shawshank Redemption
 - c. True Crime
 - d. Usual Suspects
 - e. Gross Point Blank
 - f. The Departed
2. Religion
 - a. Dogma
 - b. The Exorcist
 - c. Battlefield Earth (Scientology)
 - d. Contact
 - e. Seven
3. Racism, Hate and Anti Semitism
 - a. Guess who's coming to dinner
 - b. Munich
 - c. Europa Europa
4. Self Image
 - a. Mean Girls
 - b. Heathers
 - c. Pump Up the Volume
 - d. American Beauty
 - e. Hairspray
 - f. The Mask
5. Cloning, Medical Issues and Mental Illness 2 weeks
 - a. Sling Blade
 - b. Rain Man
 - c. Beautiful Mind
 - d. The 6th Day
 - e. Donnie Darko
 - f. One Flew over the Cuckoos Nest
 - g. I am Legend
 - h. Omega Man
 - i. Andromeda Strain
 - j. Fight Club
 - k. Seven
6. Civil Rights and Social Freedoms
 - a. 1984
 - b. Clockwork Orange
- c. Equilibrium Christian Bale
7. Tolerance
 - a. Glory Road
 - b. Remember the Titans
 - c. Rodeo
 - d. Philadelphia
8. Pop Culture , Privacy Issues and Intellectual Property Social Issues through Comedy
 - a. Antitrust
 - b. Disturbia
 - c. Almost Famous
 - d. Willie Wonka (original) Intellectual property issues
 - e. Being John Malcovich
9. Terrorism and War
 - a. Munich
 - b. The Siege
 - c. The Kingdom
 - d. Arlington Road
 - e. Lions for Lambs
 - f. Sum of all Fears
 - g. Unthinkable
 - h. Sunday Bloody Sunday
 - i. Sum of all Fears
10. Politics and Economics
 - a. Primary Colors
 - b. All the Presidents Men vs. Dick
 - c. Frost Nixon
 - d. JFK
 - e. Dr. Strangelove
 - f. 13 Days
 - g. Manchurian Candidate
 - h. The Contender
 - i. Wallstreet
 - j. Too Big to Fail
11. Technology (society, ethics and morals)
 - a. Soylent Green
 - b. Logan's Run
 - c. Repo Men
 - d. The Running Man

