Purpose of the Course

This course offers an analysis of film and literature and will provide conceptual frameworks and vocabulary for understanding and explaining how films and literature function or, in some cases, do not function. This class is similar to an English literature class, but instead of reading books, the students “read” films. Through films, a student can explore cultures, relationships, political issues, and get a deeper insight and understanding about the human experience, including self. The films, in and out of class, will be narratives with all the basic elements of literature; these will be analyzed, examined and discussed, applying the same methods used in English literature classes. Because many significant movies are based on books, Movie Literature 237 will also consider the relationship between films and the written word (novels).

Coursework

During the term, the student will be required to “read” films and some short fiction each week, write movie reviews/journals and complete analysis forms (provided in class/online). Students will also be required to “read” one assigned film each week out of class. Students may decide to “read” together.

Objectives

At the completion of this course, the student will:
• Read, understand and enjoy a number of significant works of film and literature
• View, discuss, review and analyze films
• Recognize and discuss specific film genres
• Develop and refine critical thinking, oral and written expression, and techniques of cultural analysis

Discussion

Participation in discussions is an important element for this class. Through discussion, films are analyzed more thoroughly and the student gets the perspective of other points of view; this usually tends to foster growth. A weekly grade will be assigned for participation in class discussion.

“Reading” the Film

When a film is being presented, it is like the teacher presenting information. Utmost attention to the film is required. A weekly grade will be assigned for actively “reading” the film.
Movie Reviews

Each movie presented in class will be reviewed. The student will be given several formats/examples for movie reviews.

Textbook

Instructor handouts.

Film Activities

Each film will have standard/routine activities that must be completed before, during, and after viewing the film. Points will be awarded based on the quality of work completed. This will be discussed in detail during the first class meeting. Clear, concise handouts will be provided.

Required Materials

• Composition journal

Rules

• Be respectful.
• Be on time, be engaged (no sleeping in class), and be productive.
• Absolutely no electronic devices (cell phones, headphones, etc.)

Grading

90 - 100 = A
89 - 80 = B
79 - 70 = C
69 - 60 = D
59 - 50 = F