

Department: English

Course Name: Contemporary Film and Fiction

Course Description:

Contemporary Film & Literature is a course designed to examine post-1960 film and fiction by introducing students to the themes, ideas, and techniques employed by a variety of contemporary filmmakers with the objective of developing an appreciation for quality in film making. Through weekly screenings, readings and discussions, students will learn fundamental concepts and a basic vocabulary of film study, and will learn to objectively evaluate film techniques. Students will also be encouraged and guided as they develop their own critical approach, voice and writing skills for both formal, analytical essays and informal, in-class and at home writings.

Content:

Film terminology
How to read a film
Mise-en-Scene
Narrative Structure
Cinematography/lighting
Sound
Documentaries
Types of fictional films
Psychological thrillers
Bildungsroman

Skills:

Understand film terminology
Identify terminology within a film
Understand types of narrative structure
Understand and identify mise-en-scene
Identify different types of fictional films
Understand the use of cinematography, lighting and sound within a film
Identify the elements of a documentary
Respond to informal class discussion
Develop oral presentation skills
Use presentation technology
Articulate complex ideas through discussion
Analyze character development
Analyze authors' purpose
Clarifying, supporting and defending an argument

Texts and Materials:

DVDs/ Streaming for viewing

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture
Small group discussion
Viewing of film clips illustrating cinematic techniques
Analytical viewing of films

Methods of Evaluation:

Quizzes

Tests on lectures

Film logs

Screening reports

Essays

Presented projects on aspects of film study

