

Murrieta Valley Unified School District
High School Course Outline
June 2006

Department: English

Course Title: Cinema as Literature

Grade Level: 11-12

Length of Course: Year

Prerequisite: None

UC/CSU (A-G) Requirement: G

I. Goals

The student will:

- A. Identify literary concepts in film, such as motifs, symbols, metaphors, allusions, and plot elements
- B. Identify and critique the elements of film
- C. Define and distinguish the various film genres
- D. Analyze and critique films orally and in written composition
- E. Demonstrate the ability to compose critical/analytical essays
- F. Utilize the writing process to compose, revise, and edit compositions
- G. Understand and utilize standard techniques for the investigation of information and documentation of research papers
- H. Utilize multimedia projects for demonstrating understanding of the elements of film

II. Outline of Content for Major Areas of Study

Semester I

- A. Introduction to film history, terms, and analysis
 - 1. Film history timeline
 - 2. Production steps

3. Master scene technique
4. Continuity
5. Suspension of disbelief

B. Literary terms for film analysis: *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Rear Window*, *The Hudsucker Proxy*, *A River Runs Through It*, *High Noon*, *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*, *Casablanca*

1. Character: protagonist/antagonist
2. Narrative techniques
3. Plot: exposition/conflict/ climax/resolution
4. Point of view
5. Foreshadowing/suspense
6. Theme/symbolism/imagery
7. Foreshadowing
8. Static vs. Dynamic characters
9. Theme/motif
10. Flat vs. Round characters
11. Archetypal characters
12. Motivation
13. Foils
14. Allegory
15. Irony: verbal/dramatic/situational
16. The epic
17. Sympathetic characterization
18. Setting
19. Tone

C. Terms for film analysis (see films from above)

1. Screenwriting
2. Establishing shots
3. The Comedy
4. Point of view shots
5. Optical effects (blue screen)
6. Rear Projection
7. Soft focus lens
8. The Mystery
9. Cinematography
10. Photo montage
11. Lyrical film
12. The Drama
13. Optical effects (digital)
14. Falling stunts
15. The Farce
16. Editing
17. Scoring
18. Camera Movement: crane shots

19. Casting
 20. The Western
 21. Camera movement: tracking shots/pans/swish pans
 22. Long shots
 23. Spaghetti Westerns
 24. Light and shadow
 25. Low/high angle shots
- D. Rebels as a Theme in Film: *Cool Hand Luke*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Shawshank Redemption*, *Thelma and Louise*, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
1. Anti-hero
 2. Sympathetic characterization
 3. Foreshadowing
 4. Symbolism
 5. Anti-hero
 6. Motif
 7. Religious Imagery
 8. Theme
 9. Dynamic Duos
 10. End-of-the-Road Films
 11. Soft focus lens
 12. Weapons FX (squibs)
 13. Crane shots
- E. Happiness and Harmony as a Theme in Film: *Forrest Gump*, *Raising Arizona*
1. Motif/symbolism
 2. Theme
 3. Optical effects
 4. Flashback
- F. Monsters in Film: *The Birds*, *King Kong*, *Psycho*
1. Personification
 2. Dramatic/situational irony
 3. Stop motion animation
 4. Mattes/composite shots
 5. Animatronics
 6. Analytical writing about films
- G. Epic Struggles: *Gladiator*, *Sparticus*, *Braveheart*
1. The epic
 2. The reluctant hero archetype
 3. Foils
 4. Battle stunts
 5. Digital effects

6. Costuming
7. Writing film critiques/reviews

Semester II

- A. Warping Time: *Run Lola Run, Frequency, Field of Dreams, Sliding Doors*
 1. Motif/symbolism
 2. Theme
 3. Optical effects
 4. Flashback
 5. Reflective writing
- B. Breaking Down Stereotypes: *In the Heat of the Night, Remember the Titans, Dances with Wolves, Little Big Man*
 1. Characterization
 2. Scoring for mood
 3. Analytical writing
- C. Exploring War: *Bridge on the River Kwai, Platoon, Apocalypse Now, Dr. Strangelove, MASH, Three Kings*
 1. Stunts
 2. Pyrotechnics
 3. Writing film critiques
- D. Looking to the Future: *The Truman Show, Gattaca, Blade Runner, The Matrix, Jurassic Park, 2001: A Space Odyssey*
 1. Symbol/motif
 2. Science fiction/dystopias
 3. Optical effects
 4. CGI
 5. Animatronics
 6. Reflective writing
- E. Coming of Age as a Theme in Film: *Rebel without a Cause, Breaking Away, The Graduate, American Graffiti, Stand by Me, Rushmore*
 1. Archetypal characters
 2. Light manipulation
 3. Reflective writing

III. Accountability Determinants

- A. Teacher-generated tests
- B. Daily work assessments
- C. Writing assessments

D. Projects and presentations

IV. Required Text

None

V. Supplementary Materials

Gianetti, Louis. Understanding Movies, 7th Edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1990.

Film List:

Birth of a Nation (Unrated)
Ferris Bueller's Day Off(PG-13)
Rear Window(Unrated)
A River Runs Through It (PG)
The Hudsucker Proxy(PG)
High Noon (Unrated)
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (Unrated)
Casablanca (Unrated)
The Great Dictator (Unrated)
Citizen Kane (Unrated)
Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (PG)
Bonnie and Clyde (Unrated)
Thelma and Louise (R)
Cool Hand Luke (Unrated)
The Shawshank Redemption (R)
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (R)
Forrest Gump (PG-13)
Sliding Doors(PG-13)
Run, Lola, Run (R)
Groundhog Day (PG)
The Birds (PG-13))
King Kong (Unrated)
Psycho (Unrated)
Spartacus (Unrated)
The Gladiator (R)
Braveheart (R)
The Dirty Dozen (PG)
The Magnificent Seven (Unrated))
The Three Amigos (PG)
Raising Arizona (PG)
A Fish Called Wanda (PG-13)
The Quiet Man (Unrated)
The Goodbye Girl (PG)
Breakfast at Tiffany's (Unrated)

The Sure Thing (PG)
Roxanne (PG)
Say Anything (PG)
Field of Dreams (PG)
Frequency(PG-13)
Kramer vs. Kramer (PG)
In the Heat of the Night (PG)
Driving Miss Daisy (PG)
Remember the Titans (PG-13)
Do the Right Thing (R)
The Power of One (PG)
Dances with Wolves (PG-13)
Little Big Man (PG)
Bridge on the River Kwai (PG)
The Thin Red Line (R)
Saving Private Ryan (R)
Platoon (R)
Apocalypse Now (R)
MASH (PG)
Dr. Strangelove (Unrated)
Three Kings (R)
The Truman Show (PG-13)
Gattaca (PG-13)
Blade Runner (R)
The Matrix (R)
Jurassic Park (PG-13)
Westworld (PG)
Akira (Unrated)
2001: A Space Odyssey(G)
T3: Judgement Day (R)
American Graffiti (PG)
Breaking Away (PG)
The Graduate (PG)
October Sky(PG)
Dead Poet's Society (PG)_
Running on Empty (PG)
Rebel without a Cause (Unrated)
Rushmore (R)
The Chocolate War (R)

***Above films will not necessarily be shown in this order**

****Not all the films on the list will be shown during the course of the year. Many may be omitted based on time constraints, title availability, and changing student needs. Only excerpts of some films will be shown.**

August 14, 2006

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian (s),

Your son or daughter has enrolled in my Cinema as Literature course for the 2006-2007 school year. I believe this course is an exciting opportunity to explore the art of film while strengthening analytical thinking and writing skills.

A course outline was distributed to students on the first day of class. This document gives an overview of the course, my grading procedures, and the expectations held of students. Please read the course description to familiarize yourself with the content, organization, and policies of the course. For a more detailed course description, including an outline of the major topics to be explored in the class, please visit my web site at the address listed below. You can also find out about current topics and upcoming student assignments at this web site. In addition, I include upcoming assignment due dates on my voice mail message at the phone number listed below.

On the back of this letter you will find a list of films, along with their ratings, that may be studied during the course of the semester. This list has been compiled and approved in accordance with the district's *Classroom Video Use Guidelines*. They will not necessarily be shown in this order, and some titles may be omitted, or only used for excerpts, due to time constraints, title availability, or changing student needs. Please sign the form below indicating that you have read the course description and the film list on the back of this letter, and that you approve of your son or daughter viewing these films. Students have the option to opt out of viewing any R-rated films included on the list. They will be given an alternative assignment, and their grades will not be adversely affected. If you have a problem with one or two of the other films, please contact me to discuss your concerns. However, if you have concerns about any more titles than a few titles, it would be wise to contact the counseling department and change your son or daughter's schedule as missing too many films will negatively impact the student's progress in and enjoyment of the course.

I look forward to an enjoyable and successful year, and I believe that communication with parents and guardians can help ensure student success. Please feel free to contact any time with questions or concerns about any aspect of the course, or regarding the progress of your son or daughter. You may contact me through any of the following:

Phone: (909)696-1408, ext. 5601

Email: smccarthy@mvusd.org

Web Site: www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/staff/smccarthy/default.htm

In the meantime, please sign and date this letter and have your son or daughter return it to me by the second class meeting.

Sincerely,

Sean R. McCarthy

Student Name : _____ Period _____

I have read the course description for Cinema as Literature, and the list of films on the back of this letter that will be studied for this course. I give my son/daughter permission to view the films on the list.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Cinema as Literature Film List:

<i>Birth of a Nation</i> (Unrated) <i>Ferris Bueller's Day Off</i> (PG-13) <i>Rear Window</i> (Unrated) <i>A River Runs Through It</i> (PG) <i>The Hudsucker Proxy</i> (PG) <i>High Noon</i> (Unrated) <i>The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly</i> (Unrated) <i>Casablanca</i> (Unrated) <i>The Great Dictator</i> (Unrated) <i>Citizen Kane</i> (Unrated) <i>Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid</i> (PG) <i>Bonnie and Clyde</i> (Unrated) <i>Thelma and Louise</i> (R) <i>Cool Hand Luke</i> (Unrated) <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i> (R) <i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> (R) <i>Forrest Gump</i> (PG-13) <i>Sliding Doors</i> (PG-13) <i>Run, Lola, Run</i> (R) <i>Groundhog Day</i> (PG) <i>The Birds</i> (PG-13)) <i>King Kong</i> (Unrated) <i>Psycho</i> (Unrated) <i>Spartacus</i> (Unrated) <i>The Gladiator</i> (R) <i>Braveheart</i> (R) <i>The Dirty Dozen</i> (PG) <i>The Magnificent Seven</i> (Unrated)) <i>The Three Amigos</i> (PG) <i>Raising Arizona</i> (PG) <i>A Fish Called Wanda</i> (PG-13) <i>The Quiet Man</i> (Unrated) <i>The Goodbye Girl</i> (PG) <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> (Unrated) <i>The Sure Thing</i> (PG) <i>Roxanne</i> (PG) <i>Say Anything</i> (PG)	<i>Field of Dreams</i> (PG) <i>Frequency</i> (PG-13) <i>Kramer vs. Kramer</i> (PG) <i>In the Heat of the Night</i> (PG) <i>Driving Miss Daisy</i> (PG) <i>Remember the Titans</i> (PG-13) <i>Do the Right Thing</i> (R) <i>The Power of One</i> (PG) <i>Dances with Wolves</i> (PG-13) <i>Little Big Man</i> (PG) <i>Bridge on the River Kwai</i> (PG) <i>The Thin Red Line</i> (R) <i>Saving Private Ryan</i> (R) <i>Platoon</i> (R) <i>Apocalypse Now</i> (R) <i>MASH</i> (PG) <i>Dr. Strangelove</i> (Unrated) <i>Three Kings</i> (R) <i>The Truman Show</i> (PG-13) <i>Gattaca</i> (PG-13) <i>Blade Runner</i> (R) <i>The Matrix</i> (R) <i>Jurassic Park</i> (PG-13) <i>Westworld</i> (PG) <i>Akira</i> (Unrated) <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> (G) <i>T3: Judgement Day</i> (R) <i>American Graffiti</i> (PG) <i>Breaking Away</i> (PG) <i>The Graduate</i> (PG) <i>October Sky</i> (PG) <i>Dead Poet's Society</i> (PG)_ <i>Running on Empty</i> (PG) <i>Rushmore</i> (R) <i>Rebel without a Cause</i> (Unrated) <i>The Chocolate War</i> (R)
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*****More information about each of these films can be found by visiting the Internet Movie Database at www.imdb.com**