

Syllabus for Film Appreciation

No Textbook is used for this class but there are handouts.

"Whether our taste runs to *A Day at the Races* (Marx Bros.) or *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, when we become critical moviegoers, we find something to fall in love with every time the house lights go down. To understand cinema is to bask in the glory of human imagination."

Mary Elizabeth Williams (Critic for the *New York Times*)

This class will be divided into units examining as much as we can of the history and aesthetics of the American (some foreign) film industry. The objective of this class is to give you, the student, an understanding of film and the ability to hone your interpretive skills when viewing film. You will be required to demonstrate your understanding and interpretation through various forms of written, oral, and other methods of communication as directed by the instructor.

Since this class will have very little outside homework, your attendance in class will have an effect upon your ability to complete your assigned tasks. In other words, this class will be difficult to pass if you are not here or have the films available to you.

I do not have extra copies of the films that will be studied and many of them cannot be found at the local video store since they are not new to the film rental market therefore I will not allow students to take films home to view. If you are absent from class on a day that we view a film or work on a project, you will need to make arrangements with the teacher to stay after school and make-up the material that you missed in class.

The Syllabus

The following films Genres will be covered in this class:

- ***Biographies***
- ***Scientific***
- ***Historical and Cultural***
- ***Dramatic***
- ***Sports***

- ***Romance***
- ***Classical***
- ***Musical***

Supplies: Since the student has a tablet PC, he / she will be expected to take notes and to summarize the discussion and / or viewing of the day. From time to time, the instructor will check to see the writing and observations that the student is making for this class. Testing will take place following the presentation and discussion of a film unit. Sometimes (such as with the first two films) more than one film will make up a unit.

As the instructor, I do reserve the right to change to a different film if I feel it warrants such an action. Students will be notified if this is to happen in plenty of time to adjust this syllabus. This syllabus should be discussed with the student's parent or guardian with regard to your participation in this elective class. If the parent or guardian has any questions regarding this class, please contact me at the school – 256–7706 or email: Renee.Nills@k12.sd.us