

## Course Outline



Cinema as a Witness to Modern History 40S

Grade 12

Teacher: Miss. Barclay

Glenella School

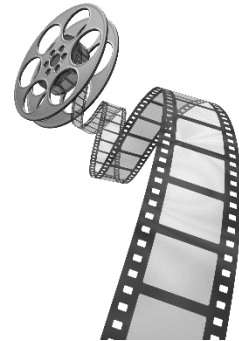
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1.0 High School Credit

Period 4+5; 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Semester 1



### **Course Description:**

The Grade 12 Cinema as a Witness to Modern History (40F) course invites students to explore the relationships between cinema as an art form, its historical context, and its role in interpreting history. Students will discuss the aesthetic and emotional aspects of both documentary and cinematic films while applying historical thinking to analyze themes presented in various movies and sources.

Throughout the course, students will develop critical media literacy skills, understanding that film not only reflects the past but also interprets, retells, and sometimes reconstructs it. Students will view a select number of films that address significant events, ideas, and developments that have influenced world history since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, including wars, revolutions, genocides, economic changes, colonialism, gender roles, social values, and technological advances. They will critically assess the role of film in interpreting these historical topics and reflect on how cinema shapes their own understanding of history.

### **Focus of the Course:**

The focus of this course is to help students to:

- develop critical media literacy through an exploration of cinema,
- enrich students' knowledge and understanding of world history since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century,
- apply the concepts of historical thinking to the analysis of a variety of film genres in documentary and dramatic cinema,

- analyze representations of history in film by establishing historical significance, using historical evidence, identifying continuity and change, analyzing cause and consequence, taking historical perspectives, and understanding the ethical dimensions of history.

### **Class Materials Needed:**

- Binder (with loose-leaf paper) or notebook
- Film journal (provided by teacher)
- Pencils or pens
- Eraser or white-out

### **Classroom Rules and Expectations:**

- Students are expected to attend class regularly and on time. They should have all proper supplies on hand at the start of class to be productive participants in their own learning. Guardians will be notified after 5 and 10 unexcused absences.
  - Please note: Attendance is an integral part of this course. Students who are absent or late miss a large portion of the class discussions and much of our daily work. In order to succeed in this class, regular attendance is a must.
- If you are late three times for class, it will be considered an unexcused absence. You are expected to be in class when the bell rings, not after it rings.
- If you are absent from class, you are responsible for finding out what you missed and catching up on missed work or notes, during appropriate times.
- Commit to making the classroom a safe space. This means being respectful of the opinions, ideas, culture, etc. of other members of the class, whether they agree with them or not. This also means being respectful to the property of others and the classroom.
- Respect peers right to learn and work within a school environment. This means minimizing distractions and time wasted.
- Use technology in a respectful manner. Laptops are to be used with teacher permission for academic purposes only. The divisional policy regarding cell phones is as such that “access to and use of cell phones will not be permitted during class time. Use of cell phones is permitted during breaks/lunch hour” only.
- In order to be successful in class you must come prepared by bringing any materials necessary and participate to the best of your abilities in class activities. Always try your best and ask questions when you need help or clarity.

### **Assignment Guidelines:**

Assignments are due by the end of the day on the assigned date, if there is a problem you are expected to discuss this with me ahead of time to make other arrangements. I can not help you if I do not know what the problem is.

- Late work will be accepted at the teacher's discretion on a case-by-case basis. Please be aware that handing work in late may cause a delay in the marking of the assignment.

Incomplete assignments will receive a mark of zero and be returned to the student to complete and re-submit on a new assigned date.

If assignments are continuously being handed in late or incomplete, or are not being handed in at all, guardians will be contacted and a meeting and action plan may be set forth between the student, guardians, and teacher. To achieve success all assignments must be handed in.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Assignments from the beginning of the semester/term will not be accepted days before the semester/term ends.

Plagiarized assignments will receive a mark of zero and will result in further action by the teacher or administration. The assignment will also need to be re-done.

If you miss a class or come in late, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and catch up on missed work or notes, during appropriate times. You are expected to get missing notes and information, not a photocopy or screen shot of the missed work, as well as pick up any missing assignments from your teacher after class.

- \* If in your absence you missed an assignment, it will show as a zero until you have completed and handed in the missing assignment.
- \* If you miss a test, you have three classes to make arrangements to complete missing tests, these will be done on your own time. You are responsible for your part of the learning process.

### **Mark Distribution:**

**Course Work: 80%**

**Final Exam: 20%**

Total: 100%

**Course Work** may include any of the following:

Daily Work will be assigned. Students are expected to finish this during the class time provided and hand it in when asked to do so. If they do not finish in the time provided they will be expected to complete it as homework. This may include but is not limited to: worksheets, notes, journal entries, exploratory/self-guided research questions, assignments, class discussions, etc.

Projects may be assigned for some units. They may be assigned to be completed individually or collaboratively. They must be handed in as a whole and fully complete before they will be marked. This may include but is not limited to oral presentations, multimedia presentations, written reports, critiques, reviews, choice boards, essays, debates, etc.

Quizzes and Tests will be given during some units when students need to show their understanding.

Homework: Most of the topics that correspond with the curriculum will be covered in class discussions which can be supplemented by note taking, however there will be instances in which it is necessary to complete work, do assignments, or to study at home. All homework must be handed in on the appropriate due date.

*Students will be provided with the same rubrics and checklists that I use to evaluate assignments.*

*Students will be expected to study on their own for quizzes, tests, and exams in order to be their most successful self.*

- ❖ Work handed in without a name will not be marked until I know who to give the mark to.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to speak with their teacher if they are unsure of deadlines or work expectations.

Final Exam: Students will be given a final exam at the end of the course. The exam will need to be completed on the date and time scheduled. Specific details will be made available later on in the course.

### **General Course Learning Outcomes:**

- View films of various genres, and reflect critically on cinematic representations of historical events, figures, ideas, and developments of the twentieth century.
- Analyze and evaluate the techniques of cinema as an art form.
- Consider how documentary and fictional films reflect the values and perspectives of the society in which they originated.
- Conduct research into historical sources in order to analyze interpretation, error, bias, or anachronism in the representation of historical subjects in cinema.
- Apply the six historical thinking concepts to analyze representations of history in film.
- Deconstruct and respond to selected films, including examples from local and Canadian cinema, international cinema, and American mass media productions.
- Study the evolution of film techniques and technologies.

- Write film critiques that apply principles of critical media literacy and historical thinking.
- Compare and evaluate the aesthetic and evocative qualities of various film genres.
- Assess the historical context of film production and the emergence of cinema as a business and a force in popular culture.
- Enrich their knowledge of significant developments in modern world history.
- Reflect critically on the role of cinema as a purveyor of persuasive social messages that deal with a range of controversial or sensitive subjects.
- Examine and assess the social role of cinema, the cinematic portrayal of violence, and the adequacy of film in interpreting history.

### **Thematic Units of Study:**

Historical topics of study in this course generally fall into one of three categories; wars, revolutions, or genocides. The following list of topics is not exhaustive and changes may be made at the teacher's discretion.

- First World War (1914-1918)
- Russian Revolution and the end of the Tsarist regime, 1917
- Second World War (1939-1945)
- Holocaust or Shoah, 1933-1945
- Cold War, 1945-1991
- Apartheid in South Africa, 1948-1994
- American civil rights movement, 1955-1968
- Vietnam War, 1959-1973
- Indian Residential Schools period ends in Canada, 1976; federal government apology, 2008
- Indigenous rights and cultures movements, 1950s-present
- Social revolution, women's rights, sexual revolution, 1960s-1970s
- The Berlin Wall comes down, November 9, 1989; fall of Communist governments in Eastern Europe, 1989-1990
- Rwandan genocide, 1994
- September 11, 2001, Islamist terrorist attack in New York

Throughout the semester, please feel free to contact me via e-mail with any concerns or questions you may have about the class. I try my best to return e-mails within 24 hours during the school week. If it is an urgent matter, please contact me by phone at the school.

After going over this outline with your student, be sure to date, sign and provide me with your contact information below so that I can best reach you, if need be, at any point throughout the semester. Please clearly indicate which method of communication you would prefer. (telephone or e-mail) I look forward to having a great semester with you!

I have read the **Cinema as a Witness to Modern History (40S)** course outline and am familiar with the classroom expectations and course requirements.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reachable Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Frequency for Class E-mails: **Please circle which option you prefer below for class wide e-mails.**

I would prefer to:

- ✓ receive a class e-mail only for end of unit/topic deadlines
- ✓ only receive e-mails if my student is academically at risk
- ✓ not be e-mailed at all

Comments or Questions: