Honors American Humanities

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4th, Room 330

The humanities can be described as the study of the various ways in which people, from every period of history, process and document the human experience. Since humans have been able, we have used history, literature, religion, philosophy, art, music, and language to understand

and record our world. Thus, the humanities are the integrated study of the ideas and values inherent in human existence. Humanities demonstrate the way that human beings historically create and share meaning as individuals, as communities, cultures, and across cultures

through what they document and produce. The integrated study of the humanities offers content and skills necessary for an engaged citizenship and humanity.

An American humanities course should emphasize the human journey associated with being and/or becoming American. In 1781 French traveler Hector St. Jean de Crevecoeur asked the question, “What then is the American, this new man?” This course should attempt to answer

that question, as well as other essential questions to find meaning in the American experience. The course should use an historical lens to discover and question through broad humanistic movements—literary, artistic, linguistic, philosophical, and religious—the cultural uniqueness

of the United States. An additional point of emphasis for American humanities should be popular culture and the mediums in which that culture has been expressed.

This course will be examining these ideas—what it means to be American and how our culture has defined this concept—through the examination of American film from its advent around the turn of the twentieth century through today. Students will define what exactly it means to be American, as well as how this figures in to the modern American consciousness. The course will address how the amalgam of cultures has influenced our nation, as well as how socioeconomic status has figured in to historical implications of the American identity. Along the way, the class will examine the history of film making, as well as the film making process in order to better understand the achievements of the American film industry. Finally, students will learn and analyze how different periods in American history during the twentieth century have influenced film genres and subjects throughout the 1900s and 2000s.

The course will be broken into three main units, each of which will contain subunits:

* Unit 1: The History of Hollywood, Film Making, and the Film Making Process
* Unit 2: Animation History
* Unit 3: Film History

In order to give students a better grasp of the nuances of film history, the class will utilize many different films from different decades of the twentieth century, many of which may be new to students enrolled in the course. Students will critique films, analyze documentaries, and even talk to someone who works in the film industry.

There are many different assignments in the course students will complete. However, they will fall into the following categories:

Tests: 20%

Film Critiques: 30%

Quizzes: 10%

Projects: 40%

This is not simply a course where students “watch movies.” They will engage the films, analyze the films, analyze and make connections between films and history, and do research about the eras in which films were made.

Hello, parents!

Your child has been enrolled in Mr. Kiste’s Honors American Humanities class! Throughout this class, we will study the history of American themes through films from the late 1800s in Europe and America, to the beginnings of animation in the 1920s and 30s, to the big film studios of the 1930s and 40s, musicals of the 50s, epics of the 60s, and modern films from the 1970s-present day.

By studying the history of film, it is imperative that students are able to watch and critique films, as well as the historical themes embedded in the films. However, some of the films that are the epitome of the era in which they were made may have language and themes not appropriate to modern-day standards. As a result, I have listed the films that we will examine from an ***academic and sensitive*** standpoint below, as well as their ratings. If you would like to know more about the films we will be watching, feel free to visit IMDB.com and type in the title of the film you are interested in. To learn specifically why a film is rated how it is, please visit [www.kids-in-mind.com](http://www.kids-in-mind.com) and type in the title of the film you are interested in.

The Searchers (NR)

The Ten commandments (NR)

Casablanca (NR)

Singing in the Rain (NR)

Footlight Parade (NR)

Mary Poppins (G)

Snow White (G)

Toy Story (G)

Jazz Singer (NR)

Indiana Jones (PG-13)

3 Caballeros (G)

Carlie Chaplin’s the Immigrant (NR)

Man who shot Liberty Valence (NR)

Public Enemy (NR)

Little Caesar (NR)

A Trip to the Moon (NR)

Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13)

The Reluctant Dragon (G)

2001: A Space Odyssey (PG)

Alien (PG-13)

Star Wars: A New Hope (PG)

Man with the Golden Gun (PG)

Ferris Bueller’s Day Off (PG-13)

ET (PG)

Jurassic Park (PG-13)

The Matrix (R)

The Day After Tomorrow (PG-13)

The Pursuit of Happiness (PG-13)

An Inconvenient Truth (PG-13)

Invisible Children (PG-13)

Little Shop of Horrors (PG-13)

Shorts

Steamboat Willy

Oswald

Gertie

Old Mill

3 Little Pigs

Flowers and Trees

Out of the Inkwell

Please detach the section below and have your child return to Mr. Kiste.

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Consent to View Films for Film History Class

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, authorize my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to view and critique the above films.

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(signature) (date)