

FINAL EXAMINATION

INSTRUCTIONS: You must demonstrate that you have learned during this semester. At the very least, you should have learned how to properly prepare your work. Note that you will lose **half credit** on your final if you do not follow these rules:

- Write in blue or black ink.
- Write only on the front side of the paper.
- Write on unfringed notebook paper.
- Correctly head your paper with full name, period, date, and assignment.
- Underline the title of a movie.

You will need to use your own notebook paper for your responses. Answer each question on a separate page and clearly identify which question you are answering. Staple your responses, in order, to this page as a cover sheet.

Part One: Clip Analyses. To get full credit for each response, check to see that

- ✓ you write at least a paragraph
- ✓ your paragraph begins with a topic sentence
- ✓ your topic sentence includes the title of the film
- ✓ your topic sentence includes the topic of the question

1. **Opening Scene:** Analyze the opening scene of *Sullivan's Travels*. What do you learn about characters, setting, plot, and/or genre? What conflicts are introduced? What might you expect the next scenes to reveal? Be sure to refer to specific details from the clip.
2. **Technical Analysis:** Analyze the effect produced by the clip from *Psycho*. What kinds of shots are used? How does the length and type of shots affect the viewer? Does sound influence the effect? Does lighting influence the effect? Be sure to refer to specific details from the clip.
3. **Scene Comparison:** Analyze the effect produced by the juxtaposition of the scenes from *It's a Wonderful Life*. How does the relationship between the scenes presented help develop the content? Be sure to refer to specific details from the clip.
4. **Closing Scene:** Analyze the closing scene of *Citizen Kane*. How does this final sequence bring the film full circle? Does it match the opening scene in style? Or is it significantly different in style? Be sure to refer to specific details from the clip.
5. **Genre Studies:** Identify the genre of each clip and prove that your identification is correct by referring specifically to the characteristics of that genre.
 - a. *The Searchers*
 - b. *The Maltese Falcon*
 - c. *Bringing Up Baby*
 - d. *Oliver!*

Part Two: Personal Responses

1. The School Board is re-examining the curriculum offered at your high school. One of their concerns is that we need to offer meaningful electives that provide a balance of education and pleasure – courses students learn from, but also enjoy. They are considering canceling “Film and Literature” because they don’t see any reason to give kids credit for just watching movies. They don’t even think film is literature. Anyone can watch a film. Write a memo or letter to the school board expressing your opinion and supporting it with your experiences in this course.
2. You’re the expert now since you have successfully completed a course on film studies. Tell me what you consider to be the best film you’ve ever seen and explain why it is such a good film. Remember to discuss its technical qualities. Just “liking” it isn’t enough for a film critic.

Extra Credit: Recommendations Keeping in mind that I cannot show “R-rated” films, what other films would you suggest we study next semester? And why?

FINAL EXAMINATION

INSTRUCTIONS: You must demonstrate that you have learned during this semester. At the very least, you should have learned how to properly prepare your work. Note that you will lose **half credit** on your final if you do not follow these rules:

- Write in blue or black ink.
- Write only on the front side of the paper.
- Write on unfringed notebook paper.
- Correctly head your paper with full name, block, date, and assignment.
- Underline the title of a movie.

You will need to use your own notebook paper for your responses. Answer each question on a separate page and clearly identify which question you are answering. Staple your responses, in order, to this page as a cover sheet.

Part One: Clip Analyses. To get full credit for each response, check to see that

- ✓ you write at least a paragraph
- ✓ your paragraph begins with a topic sentence
- ✓ your topic sentence includes the title of the film
- ✓ your topic sentence includes the topic of the question

1. **Opening Scene:** Analyze the opening scene of _____. What do you learn about characters, setting, plot, and/or genre? What conflicts are introduced? What might you expect the next scenes to reveal? Be sure to refer to specific details from the clip.

2. **Technical Analysis:** Analyze the effect produced by the clip from _____. What kinds of shots are used? How does the length and type of shots affect the viewer? Does sound influence the effect? Does lighting influence the effect? Be sure to refer to specific details from the clip.

3. **Scene Comparison:** Analyze the effect produced by the juxtaposition of the scenes from _____. How does the relationship between the scenes presented help develop the content? Be sure to refer to specific details from the clip.

4. **Closing Scene:** Analyze the closing scene of _____. How does this final sequence bring the film full circle? Does it match the opening scene in style? Or is it significantly different in style? Be sure to refer to specific details from the clip.

5. **Music Video:** Sometimes a music video can be an integral part of a film, a promotional device, or even function nearly as a trailer. Examine the music video from _____. What elements of the film does the music video enhance? How might it help entice viewers? Can it stand on its own, or must one see the film to appreciate the video? Analyze the effectiveness of the clip.

Part Two: The Title of This Class Is Film Studies, Not Movie Watching.

Due to scheduling conflicts, someone who has never taught film before will be teaching this class next year. To be a meaningful elective, the course must offer a balance of education and pleasure. Students should learn English reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills from the class, but also enjoy it if possible. Advise that new teacher. You're the expert now since you have successfully completed a course on film studies. Go back over the activities you thought most useful, the films that seemed most effective, etc. Feel free to suggest films to remove and/or add to the class. Write your response as a memo or letter to the new teacher, expressing your opinion and supporting it with your experiences in this course. Remember that this IS an English class.

The Power of Film

Essay: Suggested length: 4 typed pages, double-spaced. Attach a letter describing what you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the essay.

The goal of this essay is to enable you to analyze the power of a film (or a few films) as a vehicle for storytelling and/or cultural representation. Since comparative analysis typically sharpens our understanding of a particular text, this assignment offers several options for comparison. Be careful to select a few scenes for analysis, not the entire film!

Your choices are:

- A. Analyze the power and meaning of an individual film in comparison with the print text from which it was adapted. (You may choose *The Man Who Would Be King*).
- B. Analyze a film (e.g. *Scarface*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*) adapted from an earlier original. In what ways does the meaning change in the more recent version? In what ways does each version reflect its historical era?
- C. Analyze the representation of a social problem or a social group (e.g. racial/ethnic, gender, occupational) in a few contemporary films. What similarities and differences do you see in each film? In what ways do the films create a pattern of representation or a discourse or frame for understanding a social problem?

Note: You do not need to use outside sources, although you may find some course readings helpful.

Film Unit Debate

Essay: Write an essay of 1-2 pages on ONE of the following topics. Please use evidence from the films we have studied to support your conclusions.

- A. We have just completed a unit on great films. In a well-written essay, please establish your criteria for a great film and then show how your favorite film from this series best meets these criteria.

- B. One purpose of film is to give us a reflection of ourselves and our society. Films present us with universal challenges --- conquering evil, finding a mate, revolting against authority. Films also edify us with role models, people whose behavior we come to understand and emulate. In a well-written essay, write about the most admirable character you have seen in the films from our series. Discuss the criteria for admirability and the specific ways that the character fulfills them. Do not summarize plot.

- C. With our modern technology, films can now give us realistic special effects that were inconceivable in the early years of a medium that is only now celebrating its first century. Nevertheless, some of the earliest films are still considered “classics” and still appeal to today’s audiences. In a well-written essay, discuss the reasons that the “classics” continue to please us while many contemporary films are so easily forgotten. You may draw upon your knowledge of American history and culture in answering this question. Please make specific allusions to the films we have seen.

FINAL EXAM

Choose any relevant article
that works with your class.
Adapt Question 10.

Part ONE: Reviewing the Reviewers *(on separate pages for each separate review)*

Follow directions carefully, according to your handout.

On the top of each review, you will staple your three-part assignment --
a correct bibliography entry
a paragraph stating the critic's position (with at least three partial quotes)
a paragraph giving your opinion about the critic's position

On the photocopy of the review, underline in red or highlight in yellow the **EXACT** words which you have quoted in your paper.

Part TWO: Annotating an Essay *(on the handout)*

1. Write a correct bibliography entry at the top of the essay.
2. Number every paragraph in the indentation.
3. Locate the thesis of the essay and underline it twice.
4. Put brackets [] around any statistics used as evidence or support in the essay.
5. Put parentheses () around any example of personal narrative or anecdote used as support.
6. Put a star by at least one literary element (allusion, metaphor, simile, or personification, etc.)
7. Put a cloud design around what you consider the most skillfully written sentence in the essay.
8. Circle any vocabulary words your classmates might have difficulty defining.
9. What patterns do you see in this writer's essay? Explain below:
10. It's been nearly ten years since this essay was written. In retrospect, is Dorn's point valid? Invalid? Explain, citing at least one example from your own experience.