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| **History through film**  **HTF** |
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| Instructor: Mr. Brett Neal |
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**Course Design:**

History through Film is an upper level elective for special topics in Social Studies offered to juniors and seniors. This will be a two semester course for students to express their ideas without the constraints of a traditional classroom environment. Students will observe films through different genres in history. They will have the opportunity to apply skills learned in the social sciences to a variety of topics and issues. Students will use critical-thinking skills to locate, organize, analyze, and utilize data collected from a variety of sources

**Course Objectives:**

Students will develop the following habits of mind:

* Analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions
* Effectively use analytical skills of evaluation to determine point of view, context and bias
* Evaluate the validity of Historical films and other source material
* Construct and evaluate arguments, using historical data and evidence as support
* Research historical topics of interest relating to historical topics
* Differentiate between primary and secondary sources such as biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information
* Assess issues of change and continuity over time
* Problem-solving and decision-making skills working both independently and with others in a variety of settings.

**Grading**

**Major Grades:** Major Assignments will make up 60% of their overall average. All major assignments will consist of Research Essays and miscellaneous projects. Students will be given their Essay prompts two weeks (on average) before their essays are actually due. Students will spend class time viewing films which pertain to the designated essay prompt. Students are not only expected to take notes while watching these films, but also spend time researching information for their essay outside of class time.

**Quiz Grades:** Each film viewed in class will be followed by a quiz. Quiz grades will make up 25% of their overall average. These quizzes will check to see if students were paying attention during the duration of the film, as well as test their comprehension of the subject at hand. Students who may have missed a class day must attend an after school tutorial to view the part of the film they missed before taking the Quiz.

**Daily Grades:** Daily Grades will consist of class discussions following the films, as well as note checks to monitor student engagement in the films throughout the week. Daily Grades will make up 15% of the student’s overall average.

**Tutorials and Make-Up Work**

Tutorials will be held on Mondays after school from 3:00-4:00 in my classroom. This is when students will come to finish a film they may have missed, make-up a quiz, or seek help on major assignments. I do not allow students to bring home my DVD’s, so if the film is not on Netflix or YouTube, they must come Monday after school. If a student has a scheduling conflict, we will do our best to find an alternate time that works for the both of us.

**Electronic Device Policy**

The Spring Woods Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy will be enforced in my classroom at all times.

**Parental Permission:**

Due to the nature of this course, some of the films are intended for audiences 17 years of age and older. **Parental permission** must be given to take this course, if a parent does will not sign off on the following films, then the student will be removed from the class by their grade level counselor and placed in a different elective. Listed below are a list of all films we will be viewing in class throughout the entire year. Please initial by every film listed (even the PG/PG-13 films). If a parent has questions or concerns about certain films in the curriculum below, please feel free to contact me via email.

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| **Film title** | **Rating** | **Reason for R rating** | **Parent initials** |
| Apocalypto | R | Violence, sexual situations, partial nudity |  |
| The Ten Commandments | PG |  |  |
| Alexander | R | Violence, sexual situations, partial nudity |  |
| The Eagle | PG-13 |  |  |
| Mongol | R | Violence, sexual situations |  |
| Kingdom of Heaven | R | Violence |  |
| Monty Python and the Holy Grail | PG |  |  |
| Braveheart | R | Violence, sexual situations, partial nudity, language |  |
| Sons of Liberty | PG-13 |  |  |
| A Tale of Two Cities | PG-13 |  |  |
| All Quiet on the Western Front | PG-13 |  |  |
| Saving Private Ryan | R | Violence, language |  |
| Enemy at the Gates | R | Violence, sexual situations, partial nudity |  |
| Pearl Harbor | PG-13 |  |  |
| Downfall | R | Violence, language |  |
| Schindler’s List | R | Violence, sexual situations, partial nudity, language |  |
| Hotel Rwanda | PG-13 |  |  |
| 12 years a slave | R | Violence, sexual situations, partial nudity |  |
| Gangs of New York | R | Violence, sexual situations, partial nudity, language |  |
| Gandhi | PG |  |  |
| Selma | PG-13 |  |  |
| Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom | PG-13 |  |  |
| We Were Soldiers | R | Violence, sexual situations, language |  |
| Miracle | PG |  |  |
| Forrest Gump | PG-13 |  |  |
| JFK | R | Violence, language |  |
| All the President’s Men | R | Language |  |
| Frost/Nixon | R | Sexual situations, language |  |
| Argo | R | Language |  |
| Flight 93 | PG-13 |  |  |
| Zero Dark Thirty | R | Violence, partial nudity, language |  |

Please sign and date below to acknowledge that you have read and comply with the course syllabus.

**I hereby acknowledge all classroom rules and procedures, and will allow my student to proceed in taking this course.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_