

# FILM REVIEW – SIX WEEKS #1

(1997 & 2007 AFI Films released 1915-1960)

REVIEW #1 DUE → **FRIDAY, 9/15** REVIEW #2 DUE → **MONDAY, 9/25** **2 TEST GRADES**

**Directions:** Choose any **TWO** of the films listed below and write a 1½ to 2-page critical review using the criteria discussed in class.

**\*\*\* USE & HIGHLIGHT AT LEAST 5 CINEMATIC TERMS FROM THE REQUIRED TERMS LIST (Attached & available at teacheroz.com). \*\*\***

**MANY OF THESE FILMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CHECK OUT AT THE ROWLETT PUBLIC LIBRARY!**

**YOU MAY NOT REVIEW A FILM YOU HIGHLIGHTED ON THE LIST GIVEN THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.**

**\*\*\* Submit/Upload your reviews to <http://www.turnitin.com>. \*\*\***

**Register at the site with the following info:**

**CLASS ID#: 7091058**

**Password: filmreviews**

***NOTE: Reviews MUST be in Word format (.doc, .docx), OpenOffice (.odt) or WordPerfect (.wpd)***  
**HIGHLIGHT THE KEY TERMS IN YELLOW USING THE HIGHLIGHT KEY IN THE TASK BAR.**

**HELPFUL SITE WITH TIPS ON HOW TO REVIEW A FILM: <http://www.filmsite.org/filmview.html>**

12 ANGRY MEN (**1957**)\*  
A NIGHT AT THE OPERA (1935)\*  
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (1951)  
ALL ABOUT EVE (1950)  
BEN-HUR (1959)  
BRINGING UP BABY (1938)  
CITIZEN KANE (1941)  
CITY LIGHTS (1931)  
DOUBLE INDEMNITY (1944)  
DUCK SOUP (1933)  
GONE WITH THE WIND (1939)  
HIGH NOON (1952)  
INTOLERANCE (1916)\*  
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946)  
KING KONG (**1933**)  
MODERN TIMES (1936)  
MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON (1939)  
NORTH BY NORTHWEST (1959)  
ON THE WATERFRONT (1954)  
PSYCHO (**1960**)  
REAR WINDOW (**1954**)  
SHANE (1953)  
SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (1952)

SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS (1937)  
SOME LIKE IT HOT (1959)  
SPARTACUS (1960)\*  
SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS (1941)\*  
SUNSET BOULEVARD (1950)  
SWING TIME (1936)\*  
THE AFRICAN QUEEN (1951)  
THE APARTMENT (1960)  
THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI (1957)  
THE GENERAL (1927)\*  
THE GOLD RUSH (1925)  
THE GRAPES OF WRATH (1940)  
THE MALTESE FALCON (1941)  
THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (1940)  
THE WIZARD OF OZ (1939)  
TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE (1948)  
VERTIGO (1958)  
YANKEE DOODLE DANDY (1942)

\* Denotes films not on original 1997 list, but added to list in 2007. \* NEED HELP IN SELECTING A FILM? THERE ARE **SOME** VIDEO CLIP PREVIEWS AT LINKS ON CLASS WEBSITE & AT tcm.com.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

\*\*\* Submit/Upload your reviews to <http://www.turnitin.com>. \*\*\*

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**FORMAT:** Word format (.doc, .docx), or WordPerfect (.wpd) – **DON'T FORGET TO HIGHLIGHT THE KEY TERMS USING THE HIGHLIGHT KEY IN THE TASK BAR.**

- 1) **DO NOT** TELL THE WHOLE STORY **OR** GIVE AWAY THE ENDING!!! That is TMI (Too Much Information). Write about HOW/WHY you like/don't like the film and WHY you do/don't recommend it.
- 2) Use & **HIGHLIGHT** at least **5 Cinematic Terms** from your vocabulary list. **DO NOT** use the same terms for every review. (List attached & available at teacheroz.com in Google Drive Folder)
- 3) 1 ½ - 2 pages, Typed, Double-spaced (1" margins, 10-12 point font – Times New Roman or Arial)
- 4) Cover Sheet with the following.
  - a. "Boilerplate" information (Title, year of release, director, major actors)
  - b. Your personal \* to \*\*\*\* Star Rating
  - c. Your name & date.
  - d. Image or drawing relating to the film.

**NOTE:** **DO NOT** submit someone else's work! Incidents of PLAGARISM will receive a ZERO. It is very likely you signed up for this course because of your interest in film. Be confident in your own abilities & be willing to share (and defend) your opinions with your fellow classmates.

## **Writing Films Reviews for History in Film Class**

(These guidelines are based on the reading in [Critical Approaches to Writing about Film](#)).

The standard film review is between 350 and 500 words long, or between 1½ and 2 pages long. A good film review is not just a summary of a movie, but a critical analysis that examines why and how a film works and whether the movie succeeds in its presentation. A film reviewer often judges whether a movie succeeds or fails with its intended audience. So when writing film reviews, always consider who the intended audience is for the movie and the audience you are writing for. In fact, a good film reviewer will often tell the reader who the film's intended audience is. A film reviewer remembers that a good movie always allows, and even encourages, multiple readings. A film reviewer always assumes that the reader hasn't seen the movie and tries not to give away the climax or ending. Include the basic "**boilerplate**" information about the film at the beginning of your review. The first things a reviewer looks for is the film's **setting**, its tone and **genre**, when it was made, and who are the director and major actors. Try to compare this movie with other recent movies your reader has seen. Good movies often borrow from the style, dialogue, and structure of other great movies. A good review not only summarizes but also evaluates and critiques a movie.

When writing your review, try to remember the full range of reactions to a movie--from "panning it" to writing a "rave review." There are a number of different approaches to writing a review: 1) a plot-driven review, 2) a thematic or idea-driven review, or 3) a director- or actor-driven review. A good film review can even contain elements of all three different approaches. When writing your film reviews, use the STAR system, from \* to \*\*\*\* stars. Focus your film review around a larger argument, such as why the movie works or fails to work and what are both the successful and unsuccessful elements of the movie. Make sure that you have a central thesis and a set of supporting arguments. A good review uses scenes and dialogue from the movie to support its larger argument. In the end, a good movie review focuses on whether and how a film works and whether the reviewer recommends the movie. Finally, a good movie reviewer discusses how a movie works both psychologically, emotionally, intellectually, and even spiritually. When writing your reviews, think about some of your favorite movies. Does the film you are reviewing have the same powerful effect that they do? Does the movie provoke, stimulate, mesmerize, or enchant you? Film reviewers love movies and want to share their love of and insight into great movies. Good film reviewers know that the power of a great movie can even be life changing. There are some movies that most reviewers think that anyone who loves movies should see. Seeing great movies can change or alter the way we understand and see the world. A good film reviewer understands and recognizes the power of movies to transform our lives. So write your film reviews for this class assuming you are a film reviewer who loves movies and wants to share that love with others.

## REQUIRED CINEMATIC TERMS

You **MUST** use a minimum of 5 key terms (highlighted) in each review.

You may choose terms from the list below. Do NOT use the same terms for every review – I check for that.

Need help with a definition? Check out the links available on the class website, [teacherz.com](http://teacherz.com).

1. Allegory
2. Antagonist
3. Anti-hero
4. Archetype
5. Art director
6. Auteur
7. Back story
8. Blacklist
9. Bridging shot
10. Camp
11. Catharsis
12. Censorship
13. Cinematography
14. Composition
15. Continuity
16. Conventions
17. Cross-cutting
18. Cult film
19. Dystopia
20. Epiphany
21. Farce
22. Film aesthetics
23. Film Noir
24. Filmography
25. Foreshadowing
26. Genre
27. Hays Production Code
28. Iconography
29. Juxtaposition
30. Leitmotif
31. Melodrama
32. Metaphor
33. Method acting
34. Montage
35. Nickelodeon
36. Parody
37. Producer
38. Propaganda
39. Protagonist
40. Revisionist
41. Satire
42. Screwball comedy
43. Setting
44. Slapstick
45. Soliloquy
46. Spoof
47. Stock character
48. Storyboard
49. Subplot
50. Subtext
51. Voice over