

## FILM REVIEW – GRADING PERIOD #2

(1997 & 2007 AFI Films released 1961-2006)

REVIEW #3 DUE → **FRIDAY, 10/12** REVIEW #4 DUE → **FRIDAY, 10/26** 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.

**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 by the due dates 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)

\*\* **BOLD & UNDERLINE AT LEAST 5 CINEMATIC TERMS FROM THE REQUIRED TERMS LIST (Attached & available at teacherz.com)** \*\*.

\*\*\*\*\* **SEVERAL OF THE FILMS LISTED BELOW HAVE AN “R” RATING. IF YOU CHOOSE AN “R” RATED FILM, YOU MUST HAVE A SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP ON FILE FROM YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN ALLOWING YOU TO WATCH AND REVIEW THE FILM.** (Ask for a copy of the permission slip, if you need one – also available on class website.) **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.** **NO SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP → RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.** \*\*\*\*\*

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (1968)  
ALL THE PRESIDENT’S MEN (1977)  
AMADEUS (1984)  
ANNIE HALL (1977)  
APOCALYPSE NOW (1979) – Rated R  
BLADE RUNNER (1982) – Rated R  
BONNIE AND CLYDE (1967)  
BUTCH CASSIDY & THE SUNDANCE KID (1969)  
CABARET (1972)  
CHINATOWN (1974) – Rated R  
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND (1977)  
DANCES WITH WOLVES (1990)  
DEER HUNTER, THE (1978) – Rated R  
DOCTOR ZHIVAGO (1965)  
DO THE RIGHT THING (1989) – Rated R  
E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL (1982)  
EASY RIDER (1969) – Rated R  
FARGO (1996) – Rated R  
FORREST GUMP (1994)  
FRENCH CONNECTION, THE (1971) – Rated R  
GODFATHER, THE (1972) – Rated R  
GODFATHER PART II, THE (1974) – Rated R  
GRADUATE, THE (1967)  
GUESS WHO’S COMING TO DINNER (1967)  
IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT (1967)  
JAWS (1975)  
LAST PICTURE SHOW, THE (1971) – Rated R

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA (1962)  
LORD OF THE RINGS (FELLOWSHIP...) (2001)  
M\*A\*S\*H (1970) – (uncut version: R), (cut version: PG)  
MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE, THE (1962)  
MY FAIR LADY (1964)  
NETWORK (1976) – Rated R  
ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO’S NEST (1975) –  
Rated R  
  
PATTON (1970)  
PLATOON (1986) – Rated R  
RAGING BULL (1980) – Rated R  
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (1998) – Rated R  
SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION (1994) – Rated R  
SIXTH SENSE, THE (1999)  
SOPHIE’S CHOICE (1982) – Rated R  
SOUND OF MUSIC, THE (1965)  
STAR WARS (1977)  
TAXI DRIVER (1976) – Rated R  
TITANIC (1997)  
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (1962)  
TOY STORY (1995)  
UNFORGIVEN (1992) – Rated R  
WEST SIDE STORY (1961)  
WHO’S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF (1966)  
WILD BUNCH, THE (1969) – Rated R

\* Need help choosing a film? Trailers available on YouTube. Helpful writing tips at <http://www.filmsite.org/filmview.html>.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

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

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

**CLASS ID#: 7091058**

**Password: filmreviews**

**FORMAT: Word format (.doc, .docx) –**

**DON'T FORGET TO BOLD/UNDERLINE THE KEY TERMS.**

- 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) **BOLD & UNDERLINE** 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 (**BOLDED/UNDERLINED**) 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. Cinematography
13. Composition
14. Continuity
15. Conventions
16. Cross-cutting
17. Cult film
18. Dystopia
19. Epiphany
20. Farce
21. Film aesthetics
22. Film Noir
23. Filmography
24. Foreshadowing
25. Genre
26. Iconography
27. Juxtaposition
28. Leitmotif
29. Melodrama
30. Metaphor
31. Method acting
32. Montage
33. Nickelodeon
34. Parody
35. Producer
36. Protagonist
37. Revisionist
38. Satire
39. Screwball comedy
40. Setting
41. Slapstick
42. Soliloquy
43. Spoof
44. Stock character
45. Storyboard
46. Subplot
47. Subtext
48. Voice over

***HISTORY IN FILM***  
**FILM REVIEW – GRADING PERIOD #2 – PERMISSION SLIP**

Your student has been given a list of 51 American films released between 1961-2006 (from the American Film Institute's list of Top 100 American Films). Several of these films are rated "R." This grading period, your student is to write a critical review & analysis of TWO films he/she has chosen from the list (Film List available at teacheroz.com).

If your student chooses a film that has an "R" rating, he/she **MUST have a SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP ON FILE [part of syllabus given the first day of class]** OR they must turn in this signed permission slip allowing him/her to review & analyze the movie (It does not matter if the student is over 18). I **MUST** have the signed permission slip on file in order to accept the student's paper. If I do not have prior permission on file, the student will receive a zero on the assignment.

\*\*\*\* IF BOTH CHOSEN FILMS ARE RATED "R," A SEPARATE PERMISSION SLIP MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH FILM. \*\*\*\*

I recommend you discuss with your student the film choices he/she makes. Please fill out and return this form as soon as possible. I don't want any surprises for you, the student, or me.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or call.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Osborn  
History in Film  
Rowlett High School  
teacheroz.com  
trosborn@garlandisd.net  
972-463-1712, ext. 81147

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STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby allow my child to watch and write a critical review and analysis of the following film as part of his/her *History in Film* class. I understand that the film is rated "R" for possible mature themes, language, violence, and/or nudity.

FILM TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_