

**Digital Film: A Course in Film Criticism and Analysis**

**Fall 2019**

**Course Code: AKSD2QQB- 22**

**2018-2019 School Year**

**Instructor: S. Manas**

**Learning Standards:**

*Course Objective:*

Students will be able to understand the basics of film analysis, cinematic elements, genre, and narrative structure. Students will develop the skills to recognize, analyze, describe and enjoy film as an art and entertainment form, while recognizing how those films reflect, comment on, and impact society, both presently and at the time the film was released.

*New York State Learning Standards for the Arts*

**TH:Re7** Students will perceive and analyze artistic work

**TH:Re8** Interpret meaning in artistic work

**TH:Re9** Students will apply criteria to evaluate artistic work

**TH:Cn10** Relate and synthesize knowledge and personal experiences to inspire and inform artistic work

**TH:Cn11** Investigate ways that artistic work is influenced by societal, cultural, and historical context and, in turn, how artistic ideas shape cultures past, present, and future.

*Common Core Standards:*

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.2

Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.7

Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (Include at least one play by Shakespeare and one play by an American dramatist.)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.1

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.4

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks.

**Course Description:**

Students will be introduced to basics of film analysis, cinematic elements, genre, and narrative structure. Students will then go on to analyze six important films from a variety of theoretical perspectives, looking to society at the time the film was made, themes of the movie, and cinematic elements to further their understanding of the films.

**Calendar\*\*:**

Class Number	Classwork	Homework
1	Introduction to Film Criticism	
2	Introduction to Film Criticism	<i>Lady Bird</i> reading a questions: Due Class #3
3	Introduction to Film Criticism	
4	Introduction to <i>Lady Bird</i>	
5	Watch <i>Lady Bird</i> and take notes	
6	Watch <i>Lady Bird</i> and take notes	
7	Watch <i>Lady Bird</i> and take notes	

8	Watch <i>Lady Bird</i> and take notes	
9	Watch <i>Lady Bird</i> and take notes	
10	Watch <i>Lady Bird</i> and take notes	
11	Watch <i>Lady Bird</i> and take notes	
12	Watch <i>Lady Bird</i> and take notes	
13	Begin analysis essay of <i>Lady Bird</i>	
14	Continue writing analysis of <i>Lady Bird</i>	
15	Continue writing analysis of <i>Lady Bird</i>	<i>BlacKkKlansman</i> reading and questions. Due class #17
16	Finish writing analysis of <i>Lady Bird</i>	
17	Introduction to <i>BlacKkKlansman</i>	
18	Watch <i>BlacKkKlansman</i> and take notes	
19	Watch <i>BlacKkKlansman</i> and take notes	
20	Watch <i>BlacKkKlansman</i> and take notes	
21	Watch <i>BlacKkKlansman</i> and take notes	
22	Watch <i>BlacKkKlansman</i> and take notes	
23	Watch <i>BlacKkKlansman</i> and take notes	

24	Watch <i>BlacKkKlansman</i> and take notes	
25	Watch <i>BlacKkKlansman</i> and take notes	
26	Begin analysis for <i>BlacKkKlansman</i>	
27	Continue writing analysis of <i>BlacKkKlansman</i>	
28	Continue writing analysis of <i>BlacKkKlansman</i>	
29	Finish analysis of <i>BlacKkKlansman</i>	
30	PBA	Makeup work and PBA
31	PBA	Makeup work and PBA

*\*\*subject to change based on student needs\*\**

### **Materials and Texts:**

- “How to Talk Like a Film Critic: Glossary of Film Terms”
- “Greta Gerwig’s Exquisite, Flawed *Lady Bird*” by Richard Brody
- “Spike Lee Does Battle with ‘Blackkkklansman’” by Anthony Lane
- *Lava*
- *Lady Bird*
- *BlacKkKlansman*

### **Grading Policy:**

Project Based Assessment -25%

Students will be assigned a project based assessment as a final. Students will have a choice of five important films to choose from. Students may either write a 5 page paper with a powerpoint presentation for the class or create a video which they will present to the class.

#### Film Analysis – 25%

A short film analysis essay will be completed for every film we watch in class. Notes will be taken as the movie is being viewed and graphic organizers will be provided to help plan the essay. You will be graded out of 4 on a rubric that will be provided to you.

#### Homework – 10%

For homework, you will either receive a 100% for having completed it with clear effort or a 0 for having not completed it. Homework must show an effort has been made to be considered complete.

#### Attendance – 20%

You must come to class and you must be on time. You will receive 2 points (100%) for being present and on time, 1 point (50%) for being late, and zero points (0%) for an unexcused absence or cut.

#### Participation – 20%

When you are in class please participate. This is an easy way to boost your grade.

#### **Classroom Procedures:**

Students are expected to be in class, on time, and ready to work. There is a bathroom in the classroom that students may use. If a student needs the nurse, the Dean, the unit coordinator, or to go to the main office, they will be allowed to go and provided a pass at the teacher and para's discretion.

The students will participate in the lesson. As the period comes to a close, the teacher will go over their behavioral points with the students, asking them first what they think they earned and then telling them what they actually earned. The rules and point policies are detailed in the next section.

#### **Class Rules and Behavior:**

##### *School Rules:*

Students may not wear hats or bandanas in school. They may not bring weapons, drugs, alcohol, or any illegal paraphernalia into the school building. Students must attend school and be on time. Cell

phones and other non-approved technology must be turned off and away while in class unless otherwise instructed.

*Classroom Rules:*

Rules are clearly posted in the classroom and are as follows:

1. Listen to your teachers and paras.
2. Keep your hands (and all other body parts) to yourself.
3. Be respectful of your peers and teachers.
4. Avoid side conversation.

*Behavioral System:*

For every period a student is in class they are eligible to receive up to 4 behavioral points, one for each rule they follow. These points will be recorded on a monthly behavioral points sheet. At the end of the month, if they have received an average of 3 points for the month, they will receive a reward to enjoy while they work or at a later time.