

U.S. History In Film Course mckeehistory.weebly.com

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**Course Description**: This is a one semester, academic elective course. That means the grade you earn in this class will be factored into your overall GPA. The films chosen for this class are presentations of history as well as documentaries containing actual historical footage. These films may present historical content in five ways:

1) As a factual record: Film is used to dramatize what happened in the past.

2) To convey atmosphere: The use of fiction to convey a sense of past—lifestyles, values, or beliefs.

3) Analogy: A historical event is used to point out or explain contemporary motives or actions, particularly when the contemporary event is controversial (i.e., gun control).

4) As a lesson in historiography: Because the dramatic form used in films requires consistent and relatively simple motivational interpretations, students can often learn how the time period in which the film was made interpreted historical personalities and events.

5) Documentary: used as a primary source to convey actual events.

*Units (Subject to change)*

1. *Wilderness & the Frontier*
2. *Civil War Era*
3. *Organized Crime*
4. *WWII*
5. *Civil Rights Era*
6. *War in the Middle East*

**Instructional Methods**: This course may include, but is not limited to the following: Observing movies (journal notes), class discussion, Socratic Seminars, lecture, essay writing, small group activities, research, independent reading, and projects. Students are expected to complete all assignments on time.

**Grading Scale**

*Major Assessments* (55%) : Major Assessment grades include all unit tests (essays), research assignments and projects.

*Minor Assessments* (25%): Minor Assessment grades include the Socratic Seminars, small projects, quizzes

*Other (10%):* Journal of movies

*Final Exam* (20%) The final exam will be a comprehensive test of course material, skills and an essay.

You will receive a participation grade during each video---putting your head down, working on other work, cell phone use, or anything other than watching the movie during any portion of a video could result in a grade of zero.

A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 F: Below 70

\*\*No extra credit will be assigned.\*\*

**Expectations for Written Work**

All written assignments should:

• be in complete sentences using formal language

• follow conventions of grammar, usage and mechanics

• accurately cite sources used with discipline-specific requirements (i.e. MLA, APA, etc.).

**Chattahoochee High School Provision for Improving Grades**

1. Students who complete a major assessment but fail to demonstrate mastery as evidenced by a grade below 75% on the major assessment may pursue an improvement opportunity to show proficiency. In the case of an honor code violation on a major assessment, the grade will stand as a zero with no eligibility for recovery on that assignment. What is classified as a major assessment is determined within the content area; consult your course syllabus for details.

2. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities within 5 school days of being informed of the grade on the assessment in class. Students are allowed one attempt at recovery per major assessment. All recovery work must be completed 10 days before the end of the semester.

3. The grade on the recovery assignment will replace the original grade if the recovery grade is equal to or below 75%. If the recovery grade is above 75%, the original grade will be replaced with a 75%.

**School Board Policy IHA Grading and Reporting System Provision for Improving Grades**

1. Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.

2. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**

The Social Studies department considers academic integrity a top priority. ANY copying or sharing of answers on homework, major assessments, minor assessments, or exams will be viewed as cheating by the Social Studies Department. The only exception to this rule is if the teacher has explicitly stated that the work is a “cooperative learning” experience. If in doubt, ask the teacher.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is defined by the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language is “the act of stealing and using the work ideas or writings of another as one’s own.” Although the direct copying of another’s work is the most blatant example, any time a student takes another’s ideas and passes them off as their own, it is considered plagiarism. This includes “rephrasing” material without noting the source. If in doubt, ask in advance. The consequences for cheating or plagiarism on any assignment are outlined in the handbook: it will result in a zero grade on the assignment, an Honor Code Referral, and a phone call notifying the violator’s parent.

**Make Ups & Late Policy**

It is YOUR responsibility to collect & complete missed assignments. If you miss a movie watching day, it is YOUR responsibility to watch the parts that you missed.

Major assignments turned in late will receive points off the grade. This includes reasons such as computer/printer problems, work schedules, last minute conflicts, etc.  **For each day late, 10% of maximum points possible will be deducted from earned grade for a maximum of 5 school days.**  **On the 6th day, the grade becomes a zero.**  This rule may be relaxed due to extended illness and/or extenuating circumstances that will be determined on a case by case basis by the teacher. If you are in school but not in my class on any given day, it is YOUR responsibility to hand in any work due that day.

**Classroom Expectations**

* **Be on Time!** Please note that the Chattahoochee High School tardy policy will be followed.
* In all Chattahoochee classrooms, instruction occurs from bell to bell. Attendance for the entire period is vital to students’ success. If a student is not in class before the tardy bell rings, he or she will be marked tardy. Tardies will be tracked throughout the semester and progressive discipline will be applied.
* A class cut occurs when a student is absent from class for more than ten minutes without having permission from their assigned teacher or authorization from the front office to do so.
  + First tardy – verbal warning
  + Second tardy – verbal warning
  + Third tardy –parental notification
  + Fourth tardy – private detention & parent notification
  + Subsequent- referral
* **Be Prepared!** Complete all assignments on time. Make up any work that you may have missed due to an absence – this is YOUR responsibility.
  + Assignments will be listed on the weekly schedule, as well as on mckeehistory.weebly.com
* **Be Respectful and Courteous!** Respect yourself and others. Insults, harassment, and intimidation will **not be tolerated!**
* **Be Active!** Take charge in your learning! Get involved, and participate!
* **No Electronics and/or Food!**