# **Film History, Appreciation and Theory**  *Mr. Goldstein / 2016-17*

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Welcome to Film History, Appreciation, and Theory (FHAT)! I hope that by watching and studying great films together, you will acquire a new vocabulary for analyzing and interpreting films and walk away with a newfound appreciation for the exciting world of cinema.

In addition to the school rules and absence policies, the following will also be enforced:

**Be Respectful.**  This means taking this class, the teacher, your peers, and your education seriously, and treating others the way that you would like to be treated. It also means raising your hand when you want to speak, not interrupting fellow students or the teacher, allowing free speech and thought to flourish in the classroom, and finding appropriate times to go to the bathroom (not during a film, lecture or discussion). Please turn in your cell phone and remove your headphones before you enter the classroom. Lastly, being respectful means that when you want to discuss sensitive issues such as grades, be mindful of your timing, tone, words, and attitude. Do not accuse or assume; consult, rather than confront.

**Be On Time** to class and with your assignments. There will be very little homework, but if it is late, it will be marked down. If students are having trouble getting to class on time, the dreaded “bell quiz” may come into effect. Regarding absences, you have the same number of days to make-up work as you were absent. Major projects and assignments are still due on the due date despite the number of days you are absent. To find out what work you missed, consult my web site, which I update with each day's agenda and handouts. If handouts are not attached to the agenda, you will find them in the absence crate for the day(s) you were absent. Your absence is your responsibility. Especially because of the lack of homework in this class, your consistent attendance is essential.

**Be Productive.** Being productive means being here, being on time, being engaged during films, taking notes when appropriate, and participating in discussions. Watching a film in a film appreciation class requires engagement at all times on the part of the viewer. Putting your head down, asking to go to the bathroom, talking unnecessarily, or catching up on sleep or homework for other classes are not options.

**Be Neat**. This classroom doubles as a computer lab where there is no food or drink (water excepted) allowed. You may chew gum unless we hear, see, or feel it. Pick up all scraps of paper around your desk. Take your things with you. Please do not touch computers, monitors, keyboards, etc. unless instructed to do so. When we use computers, please be sure to shut them down and leave them the way you found them, with monitors and keyboards pushed to the side or laptops completely logged off and plugged into cart.

Basic Philosophy: Karma--what you do will come back to you. One or more of the following examples of karma may occur when you disrupt the classroom:

 a “look” a verbal warning a private chat parent contact referral

 Justin Bieber & Taylor Swift duet of “America the Beautiful”

Evaluation for your final semester grade is based on your performance in the categories below.

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| **Tests and Quizzes****20%** |  Showing mastery of concepts, facts and themes on quizzes and tests. |
| **Participation****40%** |  Attendance, coming to class and turning work in on time, giving your best effort, participating consistently and constructively, classwork.  |
| **Projects****40%** |  Both the quality of the content of your film analysis projects as well as the delivery will be evaluated. |

**A note about content...**

Film choices are subject to change at any time, but regardless, the focus of this class is the appreciation of filmmaking and learning the tools and language to analyze and interpret films.