



**Gifted LearningLinks Program  
Film Critique Syllabus**

**Instructor: Gretchen A. Harries  
E-mail address: xxx@xxx.xxx**

**Course Title: Film Critique**

**Session Date:** Winter 2012

**Course Description:**

Do you want to be the next Ebert or Roeper? There's more to writing a good critique than just telling your reader what you think. As students watch PG or PG-13 rated films, they analyze cinematography, direction, script, actors and theme to create their own movie reviews.

**Outcomes:**

By the end of the session students will be able to:

- know and use basic film terminology
- understand and discuss major trends in film criticism and theory
- analyze films using different critical approaches
- articulate their own ideas about film through film criticism

During the course we will analyze the following questions:

- What is the cinema?
- What are the different genres of cinema?
- What makes cinema different from other art forms?
- Is film a record of reality or a way to alter reality?
- What is the "language" of film?
- Who is the artist behind the film?
- Are movies products of their culture or do they shape that culture?
- How do audiences react to and interpret what they see?
- Are filmgoers actually shaped by what they see?

Through weeks 2-7 students will write a weekly film critique and share it on the Discussion Board. Each week the critique will be based on a different critical approach.

Students are asked to write a total of 4 film critiques, but they may write more. Students will have the choice of which weeks they submit their film critiques.

The final project, due in week 9, students will have the option of putting together a Powerpoint, podcast, video, or essay (student ideas?) on a particular director, screenwriter, actor/actress with a legacy, or major film theory. An idea outside the box is also welcome with approval.

**Resources and Materials:**

*All materials, readings, links, lists & resources are listed within Blackboard.*

**CTD Statement on Third-Party Web Sites**

*Instructors are required to thoroughly review any third-party web sites they intend to use in their courses for inappropriate content. However, because web content continuously changes, CTD disclaims any responsibility for any of the content contained on third-party web sites used in course materials. If you become aware of anything that may be inappropriate, please notify CTD staff immediately.*

**Schedule:**

	<b>Topic/Focus</b>	<b>Activities &amp; Reading Assignments</b>	<b>What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?</b>	<b>What do I need to turn in?</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Orientation to Online Learning	Introductions Terms	Introductions	Blackboard Only
<b>Week 2</b>	Film Genres	Weekly Reading, Weekly Film Film Critique	Discussion Board Questions & Film Critique	Blackboard Only
<b>Week 3</b>	Film Genres II	Weekly Reading, Weekly Film Film Critique	Discussion Board Questions & Film Critique	Blackboard Only
<b>Week 4</b>	Audience Perspective	Weekly Reading, Weekly Film Film Critique	Discussion Board Questions & Film Critique	Blackboard Only
<b>Week 5</b>	Director Perspective	Weekly Reading, Weekly Film Film Critique	Discussion Board Questions & Film Critique	Blackboard Only
<b>Week 6</b>	Film Theory I	Weekly Reading, Weekly Film Film Critique	Discussion Board Questions & Film Critique	Blackboard Only
<b>Week 7</b>	Film Theory II	Weekly Reading, Weekly Film Film Critique	Discussion Board Questions & Film Critique	Blackboard Only
<b>Week 8</b>	Camera & Editing	Weekly Reading, Weekly Film Film Critique	Discussion Board Questions & Film Critique	Blackboard Only
<b>Week 9</b>	Issues in Cinema	Final Projects Due Final Thoughts	Final Thoughts & Final Project	Blackboard Only

**Academic and Performance Expectations:**

Gifted LearningLinks courses are intended for highly motivated, independent learners.

- While instructors initiate contact with students, it is each student's responsibility to contact the instructor with questions and concerns.
- While online programming provides students with the flexibility to schedule study time around their other academic and personal commitments, GLL students must be able to:
  - Devote the appropriate amount of time per week to study for their courses (see above chart)
  - Plan ahead and meet all assignment and test deadlines as set out in the course syllabus.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor, students are expected to follow the course syllabus and meet all course requirements outlined therein.

Performance issues will be resolved in the following ways:

- Instructor and student will confer
- Instructor will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Gifted LearningLinks staff will arrange a conference with the student, parent(s)/guardian(s) and instructor.

Chronic performance problems unresolved by the above measures may warrant dismissal from the program. If CTD dismisses a student from a Gifted LearningLinks course, CTD will enter a grade of "X" for that course on the student's transcript.

**Student Evaluation and Grading Policies for Non-Credit Courses Only:**

Enrichment students will receive a final narrative evaluation after the course is complete.

**Intellectual Ownership, Academic Honesty & Netiquette:**

The Gifted LearningLinks online course environment is offered as a virtual space where students and professionals may meet, communicate, and collaborate. Participants are expected to behave as they would in the workplace or in a face-to-face classroom, following online rules of etiquette (netiquette). Students are expected to act with honesty and personal integrity in all of their academic work and social interactions. This applies to all academic exercises including assignments, papers, labs, and assessments. See the CTD Web site for specific details: <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/gll/program/academics/expectations/>

**Instructor Biography:**

This is the second year that Professor Gretchen Harries has taught for GLL. She also is the mentor for the Traveler's Club and the Model UN club. She teaches various history and communication courses for GLL. Gretchen Harries has been a Professor of Communication for 18 years, teaching in Austin, Texas and Paris, France. GH is also a writer, the Lead Curator for Continental Gallery Tertulia and on Curitorial Board for Pecha Kucha Austin.