

Social Science Department / Mr. O'Connor  
Extra Credit Film Review



To earn extra credit, a student may elect to see a current film in theatrical release and write a review of the film. The maximum number of points will be set in advance (typically, about the amount of a quiz grade). Film reviews must be submitted by the last day of the grading period to be considered for that grading period. Written reviews will not be accepted for films that have been made available electronically, on cable, satellite, DVD, VHS, or pay-per-view.

Films that are eligible for extra credit must be accepted by the instructor in advance. The student is responsible for transportation, costs, permission from parent (if the film is R-rated and the student is under 17). Usually, I tell the students about upcoming films that might be appropriate and of interest. Films will have some connection or relevance to the subject matter in the course.

To receive credit, the student must attach the ticket stub to the final paper. The final paper shall be:

- **At least** 500 words
- Typed or computer-generated
- No more than 1" margins
- 12 point Times or Arial font
- Spelling and grammar always count!

The paper should be in the form of a film review. This is a paper in which you give an opinion about the movie. DO NOT take up the entire paper merely retelling the action of the film. I will have seen the movie—I don't need to know what it was about.

Typically, a film review begins with a **brief** synopsis (summary) of the main action of the film. This should be no more than a paragraph or two. The bulk of the film review discusses YOUR OPINION ABOUT:

- The major themes of the film
- How accurate is it? (check your textbook or other resource for more information)
- Is it more history or Hollywood? (check your textbook or other resource for more information)
- The acting
- Direction, photography, sets, sound, music, etc.
- Did you like the film? Would you recommend it to friends, family, classes, etc.?

It's OK to write that you didn't like the film. You won't receive a poor grade simply if you disagree with my opinion. What will get you little or no credit is if you are unable to justify your views—either positive or negative. Don't just write "It was the best movie I ever saw" or "The movie was terrible" without explaining exactly what brings you to that opinion. Write the review as if you were submitting it to an adult audience—readers of *The Sacramento Bee*, for instance.