# Summit Public Schools Summit, New Jersey

## Film and History – Social Studies Elective

Open to Juniors and Seniors 1 Semester Revised 2019

#### Curriculum

**Course Description:** This semester-long course will focus on two themes: how films portray historical events and how films reflect the society in which they are made. Students will view films from selected units (in their entirety or selected excerpts) about the United States during the 20th century and early 21st century. The class will discuss issues involving historical films such as how filmmakers take ideas from history, how a film can "rewrite history," and how filmmakers shape a narrative. Students will understand how a message can be manipulated by different forms of media for a particular purpose. Students will also discuss and write about how films can reflect the values of an era and how films may help shape an era. Students will utilize and analyze information from a variety of media sources, both online and print, including primary and secondary texts, individual research, critical essays, and selected visual materials. By the end of the semester students will be able to identify changing views of key events in U.S. history and how the film industry portrayed them. Students will also be able to discuss/write about how Hollywood influences our perception of historical events.

#### Standard 6.1 U.S. History

Students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures and environment shape the American heritage

**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

The American film industry has great influence on how the history and culture of the United States is viewed both at home and abroad. Films probably have a larger impact on our perception of our past and our culture than any other medium. Yet movies are very different from a history textbook or a newspaper. Movies are a strange combination of individual artistic vision and marketplace consensus. A film may be the subjective product of the producer, director and/or scriptwriter, but its cost and complexity force it to be a collaborative effort of hundreds of people. Most of these people are interested only in whether millions of others, the movie audience at a particular time and in history, will relate to the movie and pay to see it. Therefore, it is important for students to learn to view film with a "critical eye" in order to understand how Hollywood chooses to portray, and perhaps reshape, the American past.

Essential Questions	Enduring Understandings
What provocative questions will foster inquiry,	What will students understand about the big ideas?
understanding, and transfer of learning?	
1. How does Hollywood portray stereotypes	Students will understand that
and how does American public opinion	
respond?	1. There are central issues/themes in
2. What was the impact of technical	American history.
advancements and the transition to sound	2. Hollywood's portrayal of history and actual
and color in film?	historic events are not necessarily
3. How does the political, social and economic	congruous and they must be responsible for
atmosphere in the country and Hollywood	discerning the difference between history
influence film?	and "Hollywood".
4. How are the roles of women and minorities	3. The development of special effects impacts
portrayed and how are these roles	the perception of film.
transformed during the 20th Century?	4. Producers, directors and studios have an
5. How do international events impact	objective that does not necessarily require
American society, politics and economics?	them to portray an event in a historically
6. How do films made about a specific time	accurate manner.
period made at different times influence	5. International political events impact social
public opinion about that event?	perception.
7. How can Hollywood be an agent for social	
change?	

# Unit 1: Early Days of Hollywood: Silent & Sound Films

Suggested films: Birth of a Nation

1915

Singing in the Rain 1952

**Standard 6.1 U.S. History: American in the World.** All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

The creation of film was used as a means to express the views of the director while at the same time, embodying the racial stereotypes and ethnic misunderstandings during that era.

The transition from silent films to sound reflected a technological breakthrough that would have a profound impact on American society.

Essential Questions	Enduring Understandings
What provocative questions will foster inquiry,	What will students understand about the big ideas?
understanding, and transfer of learning?	
<ol> <li>How did early films influence popular opinion?</li> <li>How were ideals/stereotypes (sexual, racial, economic) presented by early Hollywood?</li> <li>How revolutionary technological changes in entertainment and how they impacted future change in the film industry.</li> <li>Was the film industry openly accepted from the very beginning?</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Students will understand that</li> <li>Visual perception influences popular opinion.</li> <li>Hollywood presents ideals/stereotypes that shape perception despite accurate historical contradiction.</li> <li>Innovations in technology may impact an industry and continue its advancement.</li> </ol>
J.	Examples, Outcomes, Assessments
Students will:	Instructional Focus:
6.1.12.D.4.c	Ideals and stereotypes of groups and
6.1.12.D.4.d	individuals.
6.1.12.A.4.d	2. Social impact of film
6.1.12.C.4.b	3. Technological advancement.
Explain the transition from silent films to synchronous sound and identify key films of the early Hollywood era.	Sample Assessments: 1. Student journal

Analyze how early films influenced popular opinion.

Identify and explain ideals (sexual, economic etc.) presented by early Hollywood.

Discuss the revolutionary changes in entertainment and calculate how whose changes impacted future entertainment.

- 2. Classroom discussion
- 3. Movie Questions
- 4. Response essay: How does Hollywood portray stereotypes and how does American public opinion respond?

CCS Writing: Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences the claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

- 5. Design dialogue for one scene from "Birth of a Nation".
- 6. Design a chart of all of the technological advancements in both "Birth of a Nation" and "Singing in the Rain".
- 7. Haiku: Students will respond to questions asked in a protected on-line classroom.
- 8. Harkness Circle: Students will discuss the racial stereotypes and the long term impact on society. This will include a discussion on the current racial and immigration issues.

#### CCS Speaking/Listening:

Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives.

#### Instructional Strategies:

#### **Interdisciplinary Connections:**

Filmmaking/video production, Current racial issues- explored in literature and Social Studies,

Music/Dance as vehicle for storytelling, entertainment, numerous connections to fiction-LAL (see literature list))

Portrayal of African Americans in literature: "To Kill and Mockingbird"

#### **Technology Integration:**

Assessment of impact of changing technology on early film industry.

Multimedia/iMovie/Podcast recreation of early Hollywood techniques and/or movie scene.  Development of special effects then/now.
Global Perspectives: How is the United States perceived around the globe in its treatment of women and minorities? Leader/laggard. Evaluate who holds "moral high ground"?

The following skills and themes listed to the right should be reflected in the design of units and lessons for this course or content area.

#### 21st Century Skills:

Creativity and Innovation

• Compare advancements in special effects.

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Communication and Collaboration Information Literacy

#### **Media Literacy** (see section at end)

Extension films for students to view outside of the classroom:

Ali (2001), American History X (1998), Do the Right Thing (1989), Glory (1989), Gran Torino (2008)

- 1. How is media used today to influence popular opinion?
- 2. How does popular opinion determine narrative filmmakers select?

  Life and Career Skills

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Themes (as applies to content area):

Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy

• Hollywood as a business then/now

Civic Literacy

• The changes in legal status of women and minorities.

Health Literacy

# Interdisciplinary Connections/ Critical Analysis Literature, Art,:

- 1. Introduction by the editors on role of Hollywood and historical movies. American History/American Film: Interpreting the Hollywood Image. John E. O'Connor and Martin A. Jackson, editors. New York: Ungar Publishing Company, 1979.
- Political movies "Foreward" in Christensen, Terry. Reel Politics: American Political Movies from "Birth of a Nation" to "Platoon" New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. Pp. 1-12
- "Birth of a Nation" in Sanello, Frank. <u>Reel v. Raal: How Hollywood Turns Fact into Fiction.</u> New York: Taylor Trade Publishing, 2003. Pp. 97-101.

- 4. "Birth of a Nation" In Roquemore, Joseph. <u>History Goes to the Movies.</u> New York: Doubleday, 1999. P. 59.
- 5. Carter, Everett "Cultural History Written with Lightning: The Significance of *The Birth of a Nation (1915)*" in Rollins, Peter C., editor. Hollywood as Historian: American Film in a Cultural Context. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1983. Pp. 9-19

#### **CCS Reading:**

Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well reasoned exchange of ideas.

## **Unit 2: The Western Frontier**

Suggested films: Oklahoma 1955

The Alamo (John Wayne)1960Dances with Wolves1990Far and Away1992The Alamo2004

#### Standard 6.1

All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

After the Civil War, the country turned away from sectional strife and toward the expansion of the west. The Homestead Act and the Morrill Land Grant Act helped to spur westward expansion but not at the expense of future conflict with indigenous groups.

Although the West was overrun with people looking for the American Dream, there was still a racial divide between the immigrants who belonged and those that were considered outsiders.

Essential Questions	Enduring Understandings
What provocative questions will foster inquiry,	What will students understand about the big ideas?
understanding, and transfer of learning?	g
1. How was the Western Frontier portrayed?	Students will understand that
2. How did Western expansion foster	1. How did Hollywood's portrayal of the
conflict?	Western Frontier influence popular opinion?
3. How were stereotypes of Native Americans	2. What drew people to the frontier and what
developed by Hollywood?	obstacles did they face?
4. Did Hollywood help strengthen or weaken	3. Hollywood has a powerful influence in
the relationship with Native Americans?	developing and perpetuating negative
5. Was there a hierarchy for immigrants in the	stereotypes.
United States post civil war?	4. What was the Native American response to
	these stereotypes?
Areas of Focus: Proficiencies	Examples, Outcomes, Assessments
(Cumulative Progress Indicators)	
Students will:	Instructional Focus:
6.1.12.A.3.a	1. Presentation by Hollywood of the West and
6.1.12.A.3.e	the Frontier.
6.1.12.B.3.a	2. Development of stereotypes.
6.1.12.D.1.a	3. Inevitable conflict as a result of western
6.1.12.D.3.a	settlement.
1. Identify and explain changing views of the West	4. Native American interaction with colonial
and the Frontier.	members

- 2. Analyze how films influenced popular opinion about the West.
- 3. Describe expansion and conflict on the U.S. frontier during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and explain its impact on the U.S.
  - 5. Identify and explain changing stereotypes of Native Americans presented by Hollywood.
  - 6. Justify or condemn the role film has in creating stereotypes of the frontier.

Sample Assessments:

- 1. Student journal
- 2. Discussion on accuracy of the development of stereotypes based on the actors used over time
- 3. Analyzing primary sources from Native Americans describing the accuracy of these films.

#### CCS Speaking/Listening:

Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives.

4. Response essay: How does the political and social atmosphere in the country and Hollywood over time influence film?

**CCS Writing**: Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant data and evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both claim(s) and counterclaims in a discipline-appropriate form that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.

5. iMovie/multimedia presentation demonstrating mastery of one of unit's enduring understandings.

**CCS:** Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest. Instructional Strategies:

**Interdisciplinary Connections** 

Technology Integration

1. Comparison with modern technologies

Global Perspectives

1. How is the U.S. perceived in its treatment of minorities?

The following skills and themes listed to the right should be reflected in the design of units and lessons for this course or content area.

#### 21st Century Skills:

Creativity and Innovation

• Compare advancements in special effects.

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Communication and Collaboration Information Literacy Media Literacy

• How is media utilized today to influence popular opinion?

Life and Career Skills

#### 21st Century Themes (as applies to content area):

Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy Civic Literacy

• Change in legal/social status of women and minorities.

Health Literacy

#### Resources/Literature:

- "The Alamo" by Marshall De Bruhl. <u>Past</u> <u>Imperfect: History According to the Movies.</u> Mark C. Carnes, editor. New York: Henry Hold and Company, 1995. Pp. 116-119. (John Wayne version)
- "The Alamo" (background and cast lists) in Roquemore, Joseph. <u>History Goes to the</u> <u>Movies.</u> New York: Doubleday, 1999. Pp. 98-100.
- "Dances with Wolves: in Roquemore, Joseph. <u>History Goes to the Movies.</u> New York. 1999. Pp. 114-115
- 4. "Dances with Wolves" in Tracey, Grant. Filmography of American History. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002.. pp. 220-222.
- "Dances with Wolves" in Sanello, Frank. <u>Reel v. Ral: How Hollywood Turns Fact into Fiction.</u> New York: Taylor Trade Publishing 2003. Pp. 92-96

#### **CCS Reading:**

Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well reasoned exchange of ideas.

# **Unit 3: Working Class**

Suggested Films:	Molly Maguires (set in 1876)	1970
	Norma Rae	1979
	Matewan (set in 1920's)	1987
	Newsies	1992
	October Sky (set in 1950's)	1999
	John Q	2002

#### Standard 6.1

All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

Societal and economic changes from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century were manifested by the worker in the attempt to create Labor Unions. The conflict between the workers and owners of industry were inevitable as a result. The role and impact of government changed over the course of time as well.

In present day, the working class is presented with many obstacles to achieve the American Dream. The working class faces problems that the elite/upper class will never face and must make dire decisions regarding the well-being of their families.

Essential Questions	Enduring Understandings
What provocative questions will foster inquiry,	What will students understand about the big ideas?
understanding, and transfer of learning?	
1. How is the Working Class portrayed in film	Students will understand that
over time?	1. How does Hollywood portray the American
2. What were the objectives of the worker and	versus the immigrant worker?
were their actions justified?	2. How did the Labor Union movement gain
3. Did the development of Labor Unions	legitimacy?
destroy Capitalism?	3. How does the film industry respond to
4. Does the end always justify the means?	societal conflict?
5. Does our justice system treat the working	4. How are women portrayed in the workplace
class the same as all citizens?	and what obstacles do they face?
	5. How does bias and prejudice impact how
	society views the laborer and how
	Hollywood portrays the laborer.
Areas of Focus: Proficiencies	Examples, Outcomes, Assessments
(Cumulative Progress Indicators)	
Students will:	Instructional Focus:
6.1.12.A.5.a	1. Portrayal of the American worker over
6.1.12.B.5.b	time.

6.1.12.C.5.a

6.1.12.C.5.a

6.1.12.D.5.b

6.1.12.D.5.d

6.1.12.A.14.c

6.1.12.A.16.c

- Discus how the Working Class is portrayed in film and how that portrayal changed throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- 2. Analyze how the political situation in Hollywood may have influenced its portrayal of the working class.
- 3. Interpret the appeal of the wealthy lifestyle on working class families and analyze if the "American Dream" plays a role in movies about the working class.
- 4. Evaluate the accuracy of Hollywood's portrayal of the working class and their life conditions.

- 2. Working conditions in mines and factories.
- 3. Efforts and strategies of Labor Unions.
- 4. Inevitable conflict between the workers and the owners of industry.
- 5. How do labor unions address income inequality?

#### Sample Assessments:

- 1. Student journal and viewing guides
- 2. Continuation of the stereotypes lists.
- 3. Comparisons of conditions of workers today i.e. day laborers.
- 4. iMovie/multimedia presentation demonstrating mastery of one of unit's enduring understandings.

**CCS:** Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings,

reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

5. Periodical response: Students will be randomly assigned an approved periodical and read an article that either supports or condemns modern labor unions.

**CCS:** Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant data and evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both claim(s) and counterclaims in a discipline-appropriate form that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.

6. Students will share their findings during a Harkness Circle to draw a conclusion about modern day labor unions.

### Instructional Strategies:

**Interdisciplinary Connections** 

1. Economics: Laissez Faire policy, Business Cycle, Variable v. stable minimum wage.

#### Technology Integration

- 1. OSHA regulations: mine safety regulation.
- 2. Film an interview between a reporter/mine worker and industrialist for perspective.
- 3. Video/film recreation of scene,

filmmaking technique etc.

# Global Perspectives 1. Identify the advancements in worker safety in the United States compared to other nations. The following skills and themes listed to the right should be reflected in the design of units 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills: and lessons for this course or content area. Creativity and Innovation Critical Thinking and Problem Solving 1. Determine the impact of labor unions in regard to wages and profits. Communication and Collaboration Information Literacy 1. Students will bring in articles about working conditions around the world. Media Literacy Life and Career Skills 21<sup>st</sup> Century Themes (as applies to content area): Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy 1. Develop a more broad sense of the impact of the relationship between the work and the owners of industry. Civic Literacy Health Literacy Literature: 1. "The Molly Maguires" by J. Anthony Lukas. Past Imperfect: History According to the Movies. Mark C. Carnes, editor. New York: Henry Hold and Company, 1995 pp. 142-145. 2. "Matewan" by Eric Foner. Past Imperfect: History According to the Movies. Mark C. Carnes, editor. New York: Henry Hold and Company, 1995 pp. 204-207. 3. "Matewan" in Tracey, Grant. Filmography of American History. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002. Pp. 57-59. 4. "October Sky" in Tracey, Grant.

Filmography of American History.

Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002. Pp. 218-219.

### **CCS Reading:**

Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well reasoned exchange of ideas.

# Unit 4: Immigration in American Film

# Suggested films:

The Godfather, Part II	1974
Hester Street	1974
Avalon	1990
Far and Away	1992
Mia Familia- My Family	1995

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**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

Immigration has been a "hot button" issue in American society since the first settlers arrived. While numerous groups of immigrants have arrived, Hollywood in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, focused on the European experience and portrayed the hardship, discrimination, success and joy in the process of either assimilating into American culture or holding onto parts of their ethnic identity.

identity.	
Essential Questions	Enduring Understandings
What provocative questions will foster inquiry,	What will students understand about the big ideas?
understanding, and transfer of learning?	
1. What are the reasons for people	Students will understand that
immigrating to the United States in the	1. People emigrated from Europe for a variety
late 19th Century and early 20th Century?	of reasons.
2. What hardships did immigrants endure	2. Each immigrant groups endured a different
and how did they manage these hardships?	set of hardships and managed them in a
3. What was their process for assimilating to	variety of ways.
American culture and what contributions	3. Each immigrant groups made valuable
to the United States did they make?	contributions to American culture during
4. How did immigrants of different nations	their assimilation process.
react with one another?	4. Determine the obstacles that immigrant
	groups experience today.
Areas of Focus: Proficiencies	Examples, Outcomes, Assessments
(Cumulative Progress Indicators)	
6.1.12.D.5.d	Instructional Focus:
6.1.12.A.5.b	1. Motivation of immigrants.
6.1.12.C.8.a	2. Immigrant experiences.
6.1.12.D.8.a	3. Contributions of immigrants.

- 1. Identify key films about the immigrant experience and analyze their changing views towards immigration and immigrants.
- 2. Explain the impact the waves of immigrants had on American culture.
- 3. Analyze how international events impacted social trends in the United States.
- 4. Discuss how movies about immigration and immigrants emphasize the role of culture, neighborhood and ethnic unity.
- 5. Evaluate the extent to which nativism appears as a factor in the immigrant experience in these films.

Sample Assessments:

- 1. Student Journal
- 2. Ellis Island Immigrant Experience Family history.
- 3. Interview a recent immigrant for their reasons for coming to the U.S., obstacles and contributions.
- 4. Ethnic breakfast/lunch representing a chosen ethnic background.
- 5. iMovie/multimedia presentation demonstrating mastery of one of unit's enduring understandings.
- 6. Group Project: Can the students solve the immigration issues that face our nation today. Research the issue, perspectives and design a solution to be presented to the class.
- 7. Harness Circle: Full Class discussion on prejudice and how it impacts the school environment including expectations that administration and teachers have for the students.

Instructional Strategies:

**Interdisciplinary Connections** 

1. Nutrition – representing the diverse nutritional contribution of ethnic groups.

Technology Integration

- 1. Research utilizing/evaluating web sites.
- 2. iMovie/multimedia presentation creating new ending/storyline

Global Perspectives

1. Identifying the perspectives that immigrants have on the United States.

The following skills and themes listed to the right should be reflected in the design of units and lessons for this course or content area.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills:

Creativity and Innovation

1. Students will be able to express their ethnic background through nutrition

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

1. Confront the stereotypes that immigration has on American perception.

Communication and Collaboration

Information Literacy

1. Web research- evaluation of how information portrayed in media

Media Literacy

1. Use of TV studio to conduct interviews or recreate scenes/analysis of important themes.

Life and Career Skills

21<sup>st</sup> Century Themes (as applies to content area):

Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy

#### Civic Literacy

1. Evaluate the value of immigrants/immigration on the fabric of American culture.

Health Literacy- examine conditions of immigrants then/now

#### Resources/Literature:

- 1. "Godfather" in Tracey, Grant. <u>Filmography</u> of American History. Westport, Ct: Greenwood Press, 2002. Pp. 76-78
- 2. "Hester Street" in Tracey, Grant.

  <u>Filmography of American History.</u>

  Westport, CT: Greenwod Press, 2002. Pp
  69-70.
- 3. "Far and Away" in Roquemore, Joseph. <u>History Goes to the Movies.</u> New York: Doubleday, 1999. P 329.

#### **CCS Reading:**

Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well reasoned exchange of ideas.

# Unit 5: The Great Depression

Suggested Films: My Man Godfrey 1936

Grapes of Wrath 1940 Seabiscuit 2003 Cinderella Man 2005

#### Standard 6.1

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**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

The Great Depression had numerous causes and impacted every single aspect of American society and social class. As portrayed in film, the economic distress either broke the individual or provided him/her with an opportunity to face obstacles and overcome those obstacles. Although the Great Depression had a detrimental impact on millions, there were those that rose above their circumstances and persevered through to become role models for American society.

Essential Questions	Enduring Understandings
What provocative questions will foster inquiry,	What will students understand about the big ideas?
understanding, and transfer of learning?	
<ol> <li>How Does American culture define 'hero'?</li> <li>How did the Great Depression contribute to cultural expression?</li> <li>Charity and dignity must coexist simultaneously.</li> <li>What role did the "Hero" play in American society during the Great Depression?</li> </ol>	Students will understand that  1. There are values unique to American culture?  2. Adversity can breed/foster resilience.  3. Individuals and groups have a responsibility to contribute to the well being of society.  4. How does our national history of Social Darwinism contribute toward the prejudice that children raised in poverty experience?
Areas of Focus: Proficiencies	Examples, Outcomes, Assessments
(Cumulative Progress Indicators)	

#### Students will:

6.1.12.A.8.a

6.1.12.B.8.a

6.1.12.A.9.a

6.1.12.B.9.a

6.1.12.D.9.b

- 1. Analyze and assess the idea of escapism in the films of the 1930's and 1940's and explain why escapism became popular in the arts.
- 2. Judge the impact of censorship on the film industry.
- 3. Analyze the impact of the Great Depression on the American family, migratory groups and ethnic and racial minorities.

Instructional Focus:

- 1. Escapism
- 2. Censorship
- 3. American Family

#### Sample Assessments:

- 1. Student Journal
- 2. Student Interviews with Depression Era survivors.
- 3. Students role-play a variety of roles of people from the Depression Era.
- 4. Design solutions to meet the needs of society.
- 5. TV Studio Debate the impact of New Deal programs.
- 6. iMovie/multimedia presentation explaining relevance(lack thereof) of New Deal to today's current economic and political challenges.
  - 6. Harkness Circle: Read articles that debate the modern day 'entitlement' debate and write a silent debate about specific programs.
- 7. Haiku discussion: What is working and are their any more effective solutions to poverty? Instructional Strategies:

**Interdisciplinary Connections** 

1. Economics: Business cycle, pump priming. Evaluate appropriate role of gov. in economic affairs.

Technology Integration

- 1. Role Play utilizing the TV studio
- 2. Set up a blog for students to debate effectiveness of New Deal.

#### Global Perspectives

1. International events impact American economy.

The following skills and themes listed to the right should be reflected in the design of units and lessons for this course or content area.

21st Century Skills:

Creativity and Innovation

 Student designed scripts for role-playing. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Communication and Collaboration

Information Literacy

Media Literacy

- 1. Use of TV studio for debate.
- 2. Multimedia/Podcast explaining media's importance to politicians delivering message (then/now).
- 3. Additional films to view:
- A Place at the Table 2001
- The Pursuit of Happiness (2206)
- Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story (2003)

Life and Career Skills

21<sup>st</sup> Century Themes (as applies to content area):

Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy

1. Business Cycle, Government involvement in the economy.

Civic Literacy

1. Public and Private charity.

Health Literacy

1. Nutrition

#### Resources/Literature:

- "Chapter 2 Political Movies in the Early Thirties" in Christensen, Terry. <u>Reel Politics:</u> <u>American Political Movies from "Birth of a Nation" to "Platoon".</u> New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. Pp. 27-31
- Censorship codes in Christenson, Terry.
   <u>Reel Politics: American Political Movies from "Birth of a Nation" to "Platoon".</u>
   New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. Pp. 39-41
- 3. "My Man Godfrey" in Thomas, Tony. Hollywood and the American Image.

Westport, CT: Arlington house, 1981. Pp/
58-63. Cast list p. 183.
CCS Reading:
Come to discussions prepared, having read and
researched material under
study; explicitly draw on that preparation by
referring to evidence from texts
and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate
a thoughtful, well reasoned
exchange of ideas.

# Unit 6: World War II in Popular Film

Suggested Films: Best Years of Our Lives 1946
The Longest Day 1962
Saving Private Ryan 1998
Band of Brothers 2001

#### Standard 6.1

All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

World War II has a definitive place in history. It represents a moment when young men confronted an evil enemy and overcame adversity while bonding in challenging circumstances and achieving success. All the while there were challenges on the home front for families to face. When the war was finally over and the heroes" returned home there were new challenges to confront with the adjustment for the servicemen and their families.

Essential Questions  What provocative questions will foster inquiry,  understanding, and transfer of learning?	Enduring Understandings What will students understand about the big ideas?
<ol> <li>How does the political, economic and social atmosphere in the country and Hollywood influence film?</li> <li>Can Hollywood be an agent for social change?</li> <li>How does the definition of 'hero' change over time?</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Students will understand that</li> <li>How do films made about a specific time period made at different times influence public opinion about that event?</li> <li>Hollywood's ability to portray the role of women and minorities impacts public opinion.</li> <li>Public perception and values reflect the time period.</li> <li>How does the role of women change as result of their life experience on the home front during the war.</li> </ol>
Areas of Focus: Proficiencies (Cumulative Progress Indicators)	Examples, Outcomes, Assessments
Students will:	Instructional Focus:
6.1.12.A.11.e	1. Life on the Home Front.
6.1.12.B.11.a	2. Portrayal/treatment of minorities.
6.1.12.C.11.a	3. D-Day invasion and censorship.
6.1.12.C.11.b	4. Portrayal of World War II over the span of
6.1.12.D.11.a	decades.

#### 6.1.12.D.11.c

- 1. Analyze movies about World War II and how these movies reflected the times in which they were made.
- 2. Discuss how dominant political beliefs in Hollywood influenced its stereotypes (or lack thereof) of Nazis and Communists during World War II.
- 3. Analyze how changing attitudes towards war have influenced films about World War II.
- 4. Identify and explain key themes of World War II combat films.
- 5. Analyze and explain how films portrayed life on the home front.
- 6. Evaluate the impact of current events and contemporary culture values on Hollywood's portrayal of World War II.

5. Portrayal of the Holocaust as experienced by the GI's.

#### Sample Assessments:

- 1. Student Journal
- 2. Response Essay: How are the D-Day invasion portrayed in the three films "The Longest Day", "Saving Private Ryan" and "Band of Brothers" and what is the impact of the Hayes Code throughout.

**CCS Writing:** Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

- 3. Life of the Home Front breakfast/lunch.
- 4. Interviews with veterans- record and create iMovie/Podcast/multimedia if possible.
- 5. Propaganda poster activity: students analyze propaganda posters to determine their effectiveness in getting the public to participate in the total war effort.

**CCS:** Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source

Instructional Strategies:

**Interdisciplinary Connections:** 

Economics of war.

#### Media Literacy:

Role of propaganda- examine Hollywood as vehicle for promoting war effort- compare to other countries.

War as portrayed in media/literature

Technology Integration

1. Use of TV Studio to film living history library of veteran's experiences as well as life on the home front.

Global Perspectives

<ol> <li>Holocaust awareness</li> <li>Examine global nature of war (i.e. Soviet/Chinese dead and wounded).</li> </ol>

## Unit 7: The 50's – Perfection or Perturbed?

Suggested films:	Rebel Without a Cause	1955
	The Front (McCarthyism)	1976
	School Ties	1992
	Pleasantville	1998
	Good Night and Good Luck	2005

#### Standard 6.1

All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

The conformity of the 1950's lead to radical change in the 1960's. The onset of the Red Scare and the shift to individualism as well as the focus on youth created a culture of paranoia that bore itself out in youth acting out their teen angst and the government conducting hearings on suspected communist infiltration.

Racial and religious tension was about to hit an all-time high with the future 1960's civil rights movement. The 1950's depiction of conformity will lead to differing views of those who were not part of that conformed society.

Essential Questions What provocative questions will foster inquiry, understanding, and transfer of learning?	Enduring Understandings What will students understand about the big ideas?	
<ol> <li>How does conformity foster paranoia?</li> <li>How can democracy endure and flourish when civil liberties are curtailed?</li> <li>Are gender roles stagnant or can they shift?</li> <li>What is life like for those who do not conform?</li> <li>Is it alright to conform out of necessity and not desire?</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Students will understand that</li> <li>The 1950's transitioned the nation from group thinking to individual expression.</li> <li>Challenging authority is not a threat to democracy but a guarantee that it will perpetuate.</li> <li>Society changes and shifts and the framework of government is flexible enough to bear such.</li> </ol>	
Areas of Focus: Proficiencies (Cumulative Progress Indicators)	Examples, Outcomes, Assessments	
Students will:	Instructional Focus:	

6.1.12.A.12.a

6.1.12.C.12.b

6.1.12.C.12.c

6.1.12.D/12.b

- 1. Examine movies about the 1950's and critique whether these films reflect a society that is perfect or perturbed.
- 2. Analyze films about the 1950's and identify and explain themes and issues such as rebellion and the dysfunctional family.
- 3. Describe how the youth lifestyle shaped an influenced the social and cultural trends of the 1950's.
- 4. Discuss the impact of the post-World War II economy on popular culture.
- 5. Examine the cultural landscape of the 1950's and draw conclusions about the shift from conservative to more liberal values.

- 1. Communism v. McCarthyism.
- 2. Conformity and paranoia.
- 3. Youth Culture and self expression
- 4. Conformity vs. Social Awareness

#### Sample Assessments:

- 1. Student Journal
- 2. Student interviews
- 3. Movie Questions
- 4. Poster on conformity v. rebellion
- 5. Examine court cases that supported self expression versus conformity.
- 6. Compare the HUAC to the Patriot Act and the long term implications.
- 7. Essay Writing

#### Instructional Strategies:

Interdisciplinary Connections- examine use of music/fashion to portray conformity or challenge it.

#### Technology Integration

1. TV studio – students will interview people who grew up during the 1950's- evaluate how their experience relates to that portrayed in films.

#### Global Perspectives

1. The role of the U.S. and its social influence. Trends established in 1950s- foreign intervention, American exports from wheat to rock and rolltheir impact of world.

The following skills and themes listed to the right should be reflected in the design of units and lessons for this course or content area.

#### 21st Century Skills:

Creativity and Innovation

1. Poster/media on comparing conformity and rebellion.

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

- 1. Evaluate the McCarthy hearings.
  - Communication and Collaboration
  - Students will work in groups on posters depicting historic/current interpretations of McCarthy's hearings.

**CCS:** Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source

#### Information Literacy

Media Literacy

- 1. TV Studio interviews
- 2

Life and Career Skills
Evaluating Advertising

21<sup>st</sup> Century Themes (as applies to content area):

Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy Civic Literacy

- 1. Compare the social and political themes from the American Revolution to the social and political themes of the 1950's.
- 2. Does self- expression threaten the political norm?

**CCS**: Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.

#### Health Literacy

#### Resources/Literature:

- "Chapter 7 the Anti-Communist Crusade" in Christensen, Terry. <u>Reel Politics:</u>
   American Political Movies from "Birth of a <u>Nation" to "Platoon".</u> New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. Pp. 85-95
- 2. "The Front" in Tracey, Grant. Filmography of American History. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002..pp. 208-209
- "Chapter 11: The Revenge of the Blacklist" in Christensen, Terry. <u>Reel Politics:</u>
   American Political Movies from "Birth of a <u>Nation" to "Platoon".</u> New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. Pp. 137-145.
- "Chapter 8: Beyond HUAC \_ Centrist Politics in the Fifties." in Christensen, Terry. <u>Reel Politics: American Political</u> <u>Movies from "Birth of a Nation" to</u> <u>"Platoon".</u> New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. Pp. 97-101

- 5. "Rebel Without a Cause" in Tracey, Grant.
  Filmography of American History.
  Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002..pp.
  164-166.
- 6. "Pleasantville" in Tracey, Grant.

  <u>Filmography of American History.</u>

  Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002..pp.
  188-190

CCS Reading: Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well reasoned exchange of ideas.

#### Unit 8: Racism and the Treatment of Minorities

Suggested Films:	Stand and Deliver	1988
	Mississippi Burning	1989
	Malcolm X	1992
	Tuskegee Airmen	1995
	A Time to Kill	1996
	42	2013
	Selma	2014
	Hidden Figures	2016

#### Standard 6.1

All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

Stereotypes, ignorance and prejudice lead to discrimination and create a culture of racism. Over the course of American history African Americans have been stereotyped which has lead to racism. Hollywood has contributed to this but has also created films that have confronted racism, which has brought about a social conversation that has lead to the reduction of racism in society.

Essential Questions  What provocative questions will foster inquiry,  understanding, and transfer of learning?	Enduring Understandings What will students understand about the big ideas?
1. How are minorities stereotyped in American society and Hollywood?	Students will understand that  1. The development of stereotypes is based on
<ol> <li>How do we change stereotypes in order to recover from the racism in society and Hollywood?</li> <li>Can minorities gain political, economic and social equality when hate groups still exist?</li> <li>Is racism constant throughout our history? Why?</li> </ol>	<ul><li>fear and ignorance.</li><li>That confronting our own prejudices we can alter our perceptions and thus reduce racism.</li><li>Social and political change must go hand in hand to achieve parity.</li></ul>
Areas of Focus: Proficiencies	Examples, Outcomes, Assessments
(Cumulative Progress Indicators)	
Students will:	Instructional Focus:
6.1.12.A.13.a	1. Stereotypes

6.1.12.A.13.b

6.1.12.C.13.a

6.1.12.C.13.c

6.1.12.D.13.a

6.1.12.D.13.b

- 1. Reflect on films concerning race relations and analyze Hollywood's treatment of minorities
- 2. Describe key aspects of the race, culture, and society of the 1960's and 1970's as related to the portrayal of minorities in films of that decade.
- 3. Evaluate in what areas minorities achieved parity and/or advancement as shown in the films (economic, political, social, cultural, or other. Evaluate what elements of race relations are focused on in the films (segregation, discrimination, employment, political agency, etc).
- 4. Analyze how United States domestic policies on civil rights is depicted in film.

- 2. Portrayal of minorities by Hollywood
- 3. Impact that film stereotypes have on public perception.

#### Sample Assessments:

- 1. Student Journal
- 2. Read the account of the Newark riots of 1967 at <a href="www.67riots.rutgers.edu">www.67riots.rutgers.edu</a> and write a response: Were the riots and looting justified in that time period?
- 3. Harkness Circle: admitting prejudices and how do we confront our own bias.

CCS: Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task

- 4. Research hate groups: utilize the FBI website on hate/terrorist groups.
- 5. Video/film of Student-student interviews regarding stereotyping, prejudice and solutions.

Instructional Strategies:
Interdisciplinary Connections

Technology Integration

1. TV studio/video for student interviews. iMovie/multimedia presentation demonstrating mastery of select enduring understanding(s).

Global Perspectives

1. How does the world perceive racism in American society?

The following skills and themes listed to the right should be reflected in the design of units and lessons for this course or content area.

21st Century Skills:

Creativity and Innovation

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

1. Designing solutions to confront racism and prejudice in society.

Communication and Collaboration

1. Class discussion.

Information Literacy

1. Use of web sites.

Media Literacy

1. Use of TV studio as well as web sites.

Life and Career Skills

1. The confrontation and eventual reduction of prejudice and discrimination.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Themes (as applies to content area):

Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy

#### Civic Literacy

- 1. What is the philosophy of American citizenship and how is it applied in reality?
- 2. How are the ideals of the Preamble to the Constitution portrayed in American society in light of racism and discrimination?

  Health Literacy

#### Resources/Literature:

- 1. "Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" in Tracey, Grant. <u>Filmography of American History.</u> Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002. P. 175-177.
- "Malcolm X" by Clayborne Carson. <u>Past Imperfect</u>: <u>History According to the Movies</u>. Mark C. Carnes, editor. New York: Henry Hold and Company, 1995. Pp. 178-283.
- 3. "Mississippi Burning" (with Malcolm X) in Roquermore, Joseph. <u>History Goes to the Movies.</u> New York: Doubleday, 1999. Pp. 255-257.
- "Malcolm X" in Sanello, Frank. <u>Reel v Real:</u> How Hollywood Turns Fact into Fiction. New York: Taylor Trade Publishing, 2003. Pp. 212-217.
- 5. "Malcolm X" in Tracey Grant. Filmography of American History. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002. P. 196-198.

#### **CCS Reading:**

Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well reasoned

exchange of ideas.

# Unit 9: Vietnam: How Hollywood Views the War and its Impact.

Suggested Films:	The Green Berets	1968
	Apocalypse Now	1979
	Platoon	1986
	We Were Soldiers Once	2002
	The Fog of War	2003

#### Standard 6.1

All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

Public perception of war changes over the course of time. The war in Vietnam became controversial for many reasons: from the lack of knowledge regarding the country, the lack of information distributed, the escalation and inability of the public opinion to support a war that seemed to have no end. Film makers have portrayed the war from different perspectives over the course of decades

Essential Questions	Enduring Understandings	
What provocative questions will foster inquiry,	What will students understand about the big ideas?	
understanding, and transfer of learning?		
1. How is war depicted differently over	Students will understand that	
decades?	1. Upon whom did each film portray the fault	
2. Is war justified and when?	in the loss of the war?	
3. Was the United States right or wrong in its participation in Vietnam?	2. There are justified reasons for war that are universally held.	
	<ol> <li>Military, government and civilian goals are not necessarily in harmony.</li> </ol>	
	4. How does Hollywood answer the question of how the United States essentially lost the war?	
Areas of Focus: Proficiencies	Examples, Outcomes, Assessments	
(Cumulative Progress Indicators)	_	
Students will:	Instructional Focus:	
6.1.12.A.15.b	1. Comparing the depiction of war over	
6.1.12.A.15.f	decades/generations.	

6.1.12.D.15.b

6.2.12.D.3.d

6.2.12.D.e

- 1. Analyze and compare director's views of the war in Vietnam.
- 2. Discuss how our views of the war in Vietnam changed and explain the influence of film on those changing views.
- 3. Compare the impact of the war in Vietnam on American society to that of wars previously studied. 4.Compare the portrayal of the combat experience
- in Vietnam to that of World War II.
- 5. Evaluate the role of the United States in world events as portrayed in Hollywood films and draw conclusions about the validity of each portrayal.

- 2. The foundation of the internal conflict in Vietnam and the reasons why the United States became involved.
- 3. The way the Pentagon, officers and soldiers were depicted and the messages sent as a result.

#### Sample Assessments:

- 1. Student Journal.
- 2. Research newspapers for how the war was explained and depicted.
- 3. Interview with a veteran.
- 4. Assume the identity of one character from a film and write 3 letters home describing your experience.

#### Instructional Strategies:

**Interdisciplinary Connections** 

1. Language arts: writing.

#### Technology Integration

- 1. TV Studio interview to continue the development of a living history library.
- 2. iMovie/multimedia presentation demonstrating mastery of select enduring understanding(s).

#### Global Perspectives

1. How does the world perceive the United States?

# The following skills and themes listed to the right should be reflected in the design of units and lessons for this course or content area.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills:

Creativity and Innovation

1. Assuming a role of a veteran and writing in their words based on the films and media research.

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

1. Making judgments about the role and actions of the government in a critical time.

Communication and Collaboration

Information Literacy

1. Researching newspaper archives.

Media Literacy

1. Use of TV studio.

Life and Career Skills

21<sup>st</sup> Century Themes (as applies to content area):

Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy

Civic Literacy

1. The role of the citizen in government. Health Literacy

#### Resources/Literature:

- "Old and New Views of War" in Christensen, Terry. <u>Reel Politics: American</u> <u>Political Movies from "Birth of a Nation" to</u> <u>"Platoon".</u> New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. P. 149 on "the Green Berets".
- "Apocalypse Now" by Frances FitzGerald.
   Past Imperfect: History According to the Movies. Mark C. Carnes, editor. New York: Henry Hold and Company, 1995. Pp. 284-287.
- 3. "Apocalypse Now" in Tracey, Grant.

  <u>Filmography of American History.</u> Westport,
  CT: Greenwood Press, 2002. Pp. 241-242.
- 4. "Apocalypse Now" in Boyum, Joy Gould, <u>Double Exposure: Fiction into Film.</u> New York: New American Library, 1985. Pp. 110-117.
- 5. "Platoon" (with "Apocalypse Now") in Roquemore, Joseph. <u>History Goes to the</u> <u>Movies.</u> New York: Doubleday, 1999. Pp. 280-283.
- "Fragments of War" by Lawrence W. Lichty and Raymond L. Carroll. From <u>American</u> <u>History/American Film: Interpreting the</u> <u>Hollywood Image.</u> John E. O'Connor and Martin A. Jackson, editors. New York: Ungar Publishing Company, 1979. Pp. 273-288.
- 7. "Chapter 17: The New Patriotism" in Christensen, Terry. Reel Politics: American Political Movies from "Birth of a Nation" to "Platoon". New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. P. 207-209.
- 8. "Platoon" in Tracey, Grant. <u>Filmography of American History.</u> Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002. Pp. 254-256.

9. "Oldest Living whiz Kid Tells All" Frank
Rich New York Times. Sunday January 25,
2004. Section 2 page 1 and 20.

CCS Reading:
Come to discussions prepared, having read and
researched material under
study; explicitly draw on that preparation by
referring to evidence from texts
and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate
a thoughtful, well reasoned
exchange of ideas.

# Unit 10: Hollywood and Politics

# Suggested films:

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington	1939
Gentleman's Agreement	1947
The Candidate	1972
The Missiles of October	1974
All the President's Men	1976
The China Syndrome	1979
Philadelphia	1993

#### Standard 6.1

All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

The political and social culture of the United States requires that the individual participate in government and have an ongoing role in politics and society. Hollywood has taken upon itself a similar role and comments, through film, on the political, social and economic events in the nation.

Essential Questions  What provocative questions will foster inquiry,  understanding, and transfer of learning?	Enduring Understandings What will students understand about the big ideas?	
<ol> <li>What is the impact of special interest groups on social change?</li> <li>Who has a legitimate stake in criticizing the government?</li> <li>Should there we watchdog groups to ensure the honesty of government?</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Students will understand that</li> <li>Does Hollywood have a legitimate role in social commentary?</li> <li>A variety of special interest groups exist and for different purposes.</li> <li>A republican democracy is not a perfect system and must be held accountable.</li> </ol>	
Areas of Focus: Proficiencies (Cumulative Progress Indicators)	Examples, Outcomes, Assessments	
Students will: 6.2.12.D.3.a	Instructional Focus:  1. The interest that Hollywood has in the	
	politics of the country.	

6.1.12.A.10.c

6.1.12.A.11.e

6.1.12.C.11.b

- 1. Examine how Hollywood views the political process.
- 2. Identify films that involve social commentary and explain how Hollywood can be an agent for social change.
- 3. Evaluate in what ways Hollywood moviemakers consider themselves to be part of the political process.
- 4. Justify or condemn the role of Hollywood moviemakers in the political process.

- 2. The activities of special interest groups in the political process.
- 3. Monitoring government to ensure honesty.

### Sample Assessments:

- 1. Student journal.
- 2. Newspaper and television reporting research.
- 3. Critiques of films for their criticism of government.

CCS: Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.

4. Interview a local or state official regarding a pertinent issue of the day.

# Instructional Strategies:

Interdisciplinary Connections Role of "art" in creating and selling image/propaganda.

### Technology Integration

- 1. Use of media research for inform narrative.
- 2. iMovie/multimedia presentation demonstrating mastery of select enduring understanding(s).

## Global Perspectives

1. How the United States views the world.

The following skills and themes listed to the right should be reflected in the design of units and lessons for this course or content area.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills:

Creativity and Innovation

- 1. Students will take an active role in a timely issue.
  Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- 1. Students will determine if government is meeting the needs of the citizenry.

Communication and Collaboration

1. Class discussion for sharing of research. Information Literacy

Media Literacy

Life and Career Skills

21<sup>st</sup> Century Themes (as applies to content area):

Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy

### Civic Literacy

1. Students will take an active role in an issue and employ the use of a elected official's office to obtain information and make a determination on an issue.

Health Literacy

#### Resources/Literature:

- "Chapter 3: Politics in the Late Thirties" in Christensen, Terry. <u>Reel Politics: American</u> <u>Political Movies from "Birth of a Nation" to</u> <u>"Platoon".</u> New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. Pp. 43-53.
- "Chapter 6: Postwar Optimism, Liberalism and Corruption" in Christensen, Terry. <u>Reel</u> <u>Politics: American Political Movies from</u> <u>"Birth of a Nation" to "Platoon".</u> New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. Pp. 73-79
- "Chapter 9: The Sixties" in Christensen,
   Terry. Reel Politics: American Political
   Movies from "Birth of a Nation" to
   "Platoon". New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987.
   Pp. 118-121.
- "Chapter 10: Cynicism and Paranoia in the Seventies" <u>Reel Politics: American Political</u> <u>Movies from "Birth of a Nation" to</u> <u>"Platoon".</u> New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. Pp. 125-136.
- 5. "All the President's Men" by William E. Leuchtenburg. Past Imperfect: History According to the Movies. Mark C. Carnes, editor. New York: Henry Hold and Company, 1995. Pp. 288-292.
- 6. "The China Syndrome" in Tracey, Grant.

  <u>Filmography of American History.</u> Westport,
  CT: Greenwood Press, 2002. Pp. 226-228.
- 7. "Chapter 13: Workers, Unions, and Nuclear Power" in Christensen, Terry. Reel Politics:

  American Political Movies from "Birth of a Nation" to "Platoon". New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987. Pp. 157-164.

# **CCS Reading:**

Come to discussions prepared, having read and

researched material under	
study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring	
to evidence from texts	
and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a	
thoughtful, well reasoned	
exchange of ideas.	

# Unit 11: Confronting Prejudice and Bias

# Suggested Films:

Philadelphia	(1993)
The Birdcage	(1996)
Boys Don't Cry	(1999)
Normal	(2003
Iron Jawed Angels	(2004)
North Country	(2005)
Gracie	(2007)
Milk	(2008)

### Related Films:

Brokeback Mountain (2005) The Times of Harvey Milk (1984) The Laramie Project (2002) A Bunny's Tale (1985) A League of Their Own (1992) The Stepford Wives (2004) Thelma and Louise (1991)

**6.1 U.S. History: America in the World:** All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

**Big Ideas:** Course Objectives / Content Statement(s)

Throughout American History, attitudes about identity (national, racial, gender, sexual orientation, etc.) have evolved. This changing of attitudes has not happened without effort on behalf of those seeking full recognition and equality. The resulting challenges and conflicts have resulted in a more inclusive and open society.

Essential Questions	Enduring Understandings	
What provocative questions will foster inquiry,	What will students understand about the big ideas?	
understanding, and transfer of learning?		
<b>Essential Questions</b>	Students will understand that	
What provocative questions will foster inquiry,	1. The development of stereotypes is based on	
understanding, and transfer of learning?	fear and ignorance.	

- 1. How have women had to fight for equal political, economic and social rights?
- 2. How do we change/challenge stereotypes and prejudice in society and Hollywood?
- 3. Can women, homosexuals and transgender people gain political, economic and social equality in spite of bias and prejudice?
- 2. That confronting our own prejudices we can alter our perceptions and thus reduce racism.
- 3. Social and political change must go hand in hand to achieve parity.

# Areas of Focus: Proficiencies (Cumulative Progress Indicators)

6.1.12.A.13.a

6.1.12.A.13.b

6.1.12.C.13.a

6.1.12.C.13.c

6.1.12.D.13.a

6.1.12.D.13.b

- 1. Reflect on films concerning gender and analyze Hollywood's treatment of minorities
- 2. Describe key aspects of the gender, culture, and society from the 1910's through today as related to the portrayal of women, homosexuals and transgender in films of that decade.
- 3. Evaluate in what areas minorities achieved parity and/or advancement as shown in the films (economic, political, social, cultural, or other. Evaluate what elements of gender relations are focused on in the films discrimination, employment, political agency, etc).
- 4. Analyze how United States domestic policies on civil rights is depicted in film.

# Examples, Outcomes, Assessments

### Instructional Focus:

- 1. Bias, prejudice and stereotypes.
- 2. Portrayal of women, homosexuals, and transgender people by Hollywood.
- 3. Impact that women, homosexuals and transgender people have on public perception.

### Sample Assessments:

- 1. Student journal.
- 2. Student viewing guides
- 3. Interviews that students conduct with different generations about their perceptions as well as how the media portray women, homosexuals and transgender individuals.

**CCS**: Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.

4. Evaluation of current legislation and pending legislation.

### **CCS Reading:**

Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well reasoned exchange of ideas.

Instructional Strategies:
Interdisciplinary Connections

	Technology Integration	
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	Global Perspectives	
The following skills and themes listed to the	Technology Integration:	
right should be reflected in the design of units	Use of Haiku discussion board.	
and lessons for this course or content area.	2. Use of hand held video to conduct	
and resons for this course of content area.	interviews and to create a screening of	
	S	
	public opinion.	
	CCS Make strategic use of digital media (e.g.,	
	textual, graphical, audio, visual, and	
	interactive elements) in presentations to enhance	
	understanding of findings,	
	reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.	
	Creativity and Innovation	
	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	
	Communication and Collaboration	
	Information Literacy	
	Media Literacy	
	Life and Career Skills	
	21st Century Themes (as applies to content	
	area):	
	Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial	
	Literacy	
	Civic Literacy	

# Media Literacy Skills

#### Students will be able to:

- Consume and produce various forms of media (film, television, radio, internet, etc.) as a 21<sup>st</sup> century tool to think critically and problem solve.
- Formulate questions and hypotheses from multiple perspectives, using multiple sources.
- Gather, analyze, and reconcile information from primary and secondary sources to support or reject hypotheses.
- Examine source data within the historical, social, political, geographic, or economic context in which it was created, testing credibility and evaluating bias.
- Evaluate historical and contemporary communications to identify factual accuracy, soundness of evidence, and absence of bias and discuss strategies used by the government, political candidates, and the media to communicate with the public.
- Determine whose point of view matters
- Determine how one can locate legitimate sources of information
- Analyze varying perspectives on the meaning of historical events.
- Ascertain credible and questionable sources of information about historical and contemporary events
- Analyze how public opinion is measured and used in public debate (e.g., electronic polling, focus groups, Gallup polls, newspaper and television polls) and how public opinion can be influenced by the government and the media.
- Examine ways how can citizens and groups participate effectively in the democratic process
- Understand how the U.S. view of global issues and challenges may not be the same as the views held by other countries and cultures.

### **Career-Ready Practices**

**CRP1**: Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.

CRP2: Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.

CRP3: Attend to personal health and financial well-being.

**CRP4**: Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.

**CRP5**: Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.

**CRP6**: Demonstrate creativity and innovation.

CRP7: Employ valid and reliable research strategies.

**CRP8**: Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

**CRP9**: Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.

**CRP10**: Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.

**CRP11**:. Use technology to enhance productivity.

**CRP12**: Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.

# Instructional Strategies: Supports for English Language Learners:

Sensory Supports	Graphic Supports	Interactive Supports
Real-life objects (realia)	Charts	In pairs or partners
Manipulatives	Graphic organizers	In triads or small groups
Pictures & photographs	Tables	In a whole group
Illustrations, diagrams, & drawings	Graphs	Using cooperative group
Magazines & newspapers	Timelines	structures
Physical activities	Number lines	With the Internet (websites) or
Videos & films		software programs
Broadcasts		In the home language
Models & figures		With mentors

from <a href="https://wida.wisc.edu">https://wida.wisc.edu</a>

# **Differentiation Strategies:**

Accommodations	Interventions	Modifications
Allow for verbal responses	Multi-sensory techniques	Modified tasks/ expectations
Repeat/confirm directions	Increase task structure (e.g., directions, checks for understanding, feedback)	Differentiated materials
Permit response provided via computer or electronic device	Increase opportunities to engage in active academic responding (e.g., writing, reading aloud, answering questions in class)	Individualized assessment tools based on student need
Audio Books	Utilize prereading strategies and activities: previews, anticipatory guides, and semantic mapping	Modified assessment grading

## **Summit Public Schools**

Summit, New Jersey

# **Curricular Addendum**

### **Career-Ready Practices**

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## **Interdisciplinary Connections**

- Close Reading of works of art, music lyrics, videos, and advertisements
- Use <u>Standards for Mathematical Practice</u> and <u>Cross-Cutting Concepts</u> in science to support debate/inquiry across thinking processes

### **Technology Integration**

### Ongoing:

- Listen to books on CDs, Playaways, videos, or podcasts if available.
- Use document camera or overhead projector for shared reading of texts.

#### Other:

- Use Microsoft Word, Inspiration, or SmartBoard Notebook software to write the words from their word sorts
- Use available technology to create concept maps of unit learning.

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Broadcasts		In the home language
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from https://wida.wisc.edu

# **Media Literacy Integration**

 Use multiple forms of print media (including books, illustrations/photographs/artwork, video clips, commercials, podcasts, audiobooks, Playaways, newspapers, magazines) to practice reading and comprehension skills.

# **Global Perspectives**

• The Global Learning Resource Library

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