Film Study
Mr. Singer

This course is designed as a serious look at films. We will examine films from the silent era to the present. We will learn how to analyze them using specific techniques that “real” film critics use. Additionally, this course will trace the history and evolution of film making in America. This course will concentrate on Comedies and Thrillers because what makes us laugh, and what scares us, is usually a good indicator of the values that society has at a particular time. We will also look at issues facing film making including the Hayes Codes, Blacklisting and Censorship in general. **I have very little patience for “suggested movie titles,” as I have a fairly complete movie list compiled, except as they fit into the particular genre we are discussing.

As this is a credit course, there will be exams. Class attendance and appropriate behavior is expected. On days where there is a movie to be viewed, which is most days, be very punctual as we will be starting almost immediately after the bell.

This is not a “blow off” class. Any missed viewing or notes due to absences, field trips or other obligations is your responsibility to make up. I will not find you to make up the missed work, you must come to me. There will be no make up exams, except as set forth in the University School test make-up policy.

Grades will be figured through short examinations, based on notes, discussions and details of the films. In addition, short written interpretations of a film’s meaning will contribute to your grade. Since this will be a relatively small class, all students will be expected to participate in
discussions, this will be part of your grade.

**Important Information**

1) Many of the films we view will be silent films, most will be black and white films, and a few will even be fairly current.

2) At the start of the course refreshments and snacks are not permitted during the viewing of films. However, this is subject to change based on the dynamics of the class.

3) **Any student found to be falling asleep during the viewing of a film will be subject a referral/detention; no warnings will be given. Additionally, that student will receive a “zero” for that day’s class participation grade**

4) During a film, I will try not to interrupt the viewing by pausing it and making comments, but I may draw your attention to important scenes, dialog, etc.

5) During a film, please do not interrupt the viewing with questions, have your notebook out to jot down your questions, and ask them at the end. I will stop each day’s viewing a few minutes before the bell to field questions.

6) Quizzes will be given immediately after viewing a film, on the same day as time permits, or at the beginning of the following class as needed.

**Class Requirements:**

1) Notebook of any kind
2) Pocket folder (there will be many handouts)
3) Open Mind
4) love of Movies/Filmaking