

English-History 3710
Folklore Colloquium
Spring 2007

Sports Films as Folklore

Jay Anderson
Office: Main 323-I
History Department

Thursday 4:30 - 7:00
Classroom: Main 115
Office Hours: Wed., Thurs. 3:00-4:00

Course Description: Since motion pictures were invented in the 1890's, both feature films and documentaries have been an excellent way of interpreting, or exploring and explaining, cultures. In this course we will study 12 films that focus on sports in their cultural contexts in North America, Great Britain, and India.

R-Rated Films: Of the 12 films we will study, seven are R-rated, two are PG-13, and three are PG. If you have personal problems watching and discussing R-rated films, THIS IS NOT THE COURSE FOR YOU. Please do not enroll in the class.

Watching Films Outside of Class: You are responsible to view each film BEFORE it is discussed in class. Copies of these films are on reserve in the Sci-Tec Library. Local video store (The Book Table, Sommers, Hastings, Blockbuster, Hollywood Video, etc.) also have copies. If you rent the videos, please return them promptly so that other class members will also have rental access.

Assignments and Grading:

Ten film analysis forms	50%
Ten quizzes	<u>50%</u>
	100%

Assessment: Utah State asks all professors to assess their success or failure in achieving stated course goals. In this course I have three primary goals: 1) Help students better understand the United States as a pluralistic, multi cultural nation; 2) Demonstrate that films can be educational as well as entertaining and that we can learn valuable humanistic lessons from watching good movies (i.e., visual literacy); and 3) Create opportunities to practice critical thinking and group communication skills in class.

Mission Statement: This course meets the requirements of the History and English Departments' mission statements and the Folklore Program, too!

Course Schedule

- January 11 Introduction to Sports Films as Folklore
(Expressive Culture)
- January 18 In Class film When we were Kings (1996)
Discussion
- January 25 A Knights' Tale (PG-13, 132 min) British
Practice Quiz and Film Review
- February 1 Chess. Searching for Bobby Fischer (PG, 109 min.) American
Review #1
- February 8 Golf. A Gentleman's Game (R, 111 min) American
Review #2
- February 15 Baseball Field of Dreams (PG, 106 min) American
Review #3
- February 22 Basketball White Men Can't Jump (R, 115 min) American
Review #4
- March 1 Hockey Slap Shot (R, 123 min) American
Review #5
- March 8 Wheelchair Rugby. Murderball (R, 86 min.) Canadian-American
Review #6
- March 22 Track Chariots of Fire (PG, 124 min) British
Review #7
- March 29 Curling Men With Brooms (R, 102 min) Canadian
Review #8
- April 5 Soccer Shot At Glory (R, 114 min) Scottish
Review #9
- April 12 Soccer Bend It Like Beckham (PG-13, 112 min) British-Pakistani
Review #10
- April 19 Cricket Lagaan (NR, 225 min) Indian-Hindi
Review#11
- April 26 Last Class