

Spring 2008: English/History 3710

Folklore Colloquium: “Big Love”

Jay Anderson
Office: Main 323I
History Department

Thursday 4:30 - 7:00
Classroom: Main 115
Office hours: W R 3:00 - 4:00

Course Description. In this course, we will examine Eleven Romantic Comedies and Dramas in their different cultural contexts. In the films, the lovers will be involved in “issues” such as class, religion, race, homosexuality, adultery, family, royalty, money, celebrity, etc. Cinema will be considered as “folklore” or “expressive culture” and we will be studying European and American films.

R-rated Films. Of the 11 films we will watch, 4 are rated R, 4 are PG-13, 2 are PG, and 1 is not rated. If you have personal problems watching and discussing R-rated films and topics dealing with sexual matters and taboos, THIS IS NOT THE COURSE FOR YOU. Please do not enroll in this class. Thank you.

Watching Films Outside of Class. You are responsible to view each film BEFORE it is discussed in class. Copies of these films are also on reserve in the Sci-Tec Library. Local video stores (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	10 x 5	<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 English and History Departments’ mission statements and the Folklore Program, too!

Course Description

- January 10 Course Introduction
- January 17 The “Genre” of Romantic Comedy & Drama
- January 24 My Big Fat Greek Wedding (Canadian-Greek) (PG, 95 minutes)
- January 31 Shirley Valentine (English-Greek) (R, 108 minutes) Review #1
- February 7 A Fond Kiss (Scottish) (R, 105 minutes) Review #2
- February 14 Bread and Tulips (Italian) (PG-13, 115 minutes) Review #3
- February 21 French Kiss (American-French) (PG-13 110 minutes) Review #4
- February 28 Notting Hill (English) (PG-13, 120 minutes) Review #5
- March 6 Roman Holiday (American-Italian) (Not Rated, 120 minutes) Review #6
- Spring Break March 12
- March 20 The Graduate (American) (PG, 106 minutes) Review #7
- March 27 Mississippi Masala (African-American - Hindi) (R, 120 minutes) Review #8
- April 3 The Wedding Banquet (Chinese-American) (R, 128 minutes) Review #9
- April 10 Tortilla Soup (Mexican-American) (PG-13, 103 minutes) Review #10
- April 17 Course Wrap-up
- April 24 Oscars!