

English-History 3710
Folklore Colloquium
Spring 2009

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 8 Introduction to Sports Films as Folklore (Expressive Culture)
Attendance Required
- January 15 In Class film When We Were Kings (R, 70 m, 1996)
Discussion
- January 22 A Knights' Tale (PG-13, 132 min) British 2001
Practice Quiz and Film Review
- January 29 Chess. Searching for Bobby Fischer (PG, 109 min.) American 1993
Review #1
- February 5 Cycling. Breaking Away (R, 100 min) American 1979
Review #2
- February 12 Baseball Field of Dreams (PG, 106 min) American 1989
Review #3
- February 19 Basketball White Men Can't Jump (R, 115 min) American 1992
Review #4
- February 26 Hockey Slap Shot (R, 123 min) American 1977
Review #5
- March 5 Wheelchair Rugby. Murderball (R, 86 min.) Canadian-American 2005
Review #6
- March 12 Spring Break
- March 19 Track Chariots of Fire (PG, 124 min) British 1981
Review #7
- March 25 Soccer Shot At Glory (R, 114 min) Scottish 2001
Review #8
- April 2 Soccer Bend It Like Beckham (PG-13, 112 min) British-Pakistani 2002
Review #9
- April 9 Cricket Lagaan (NR, 225 min) Indian-Hindi 2001
Review#10
- April 16 Last Class