This course aims at improving the students’ skills of analysis and appreciation of cinematic techniques while also exploring social and moral values depicted in the films.

The theme for this summer’s seminar is “Choosing the Human Alternative.” Each of the films will portray the choices that present themselves to the protagonists with the option of becoming more human and more fully alive. Most of the films to be studied have received awards for their actors, their screenplays, their directors, or even for Best Film of the Year.

A question or two will be presented before our viewing of the film to prime our appreciation of the work. You will be expected to watch the film and do the assigned readings outside of class. Quizzes will be given on the films and the readings. Clips from the films will be viewed in class and then discussed in terms of the narrative and the use of various cinematic techniques. A one-page personal reaction paper to each film will also be assigned.

The films, in the order they will be studied, are:
The Graduate
Norma Rae
On the Waterfront
Breaking Away
Match Point
Dead Poets Society
The Help
Winter’s Bone
American Beauty
Gran Torino
(another film if time permits)
A couple of copies of each film will be available at the Video Desk in Quinn Library. However, you might prefer to stream them on Netflix or some other site.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) Reaction Papers: Throughout the course, students will be asked to address a specific question regarding each film in a one-page paper.

2) Quizzes: A quiz will be given on each film and any assigned reading. The readings will mostly be online on Ares and can be accessed by clicking on to tueth 4001. It is recommended that you download the assignment if it is not too long for easier reading, class discussion, and preparation for the midterm and final exams.

3) One 8-10 page term paper on a subject of the student’s choice.

4) Exams: An in-class midterm exam; a take-home final exam.

GRADING:
Quizzes: 20%, Reaction Papers: 20%, Term Paper: 20%, Mid-term Exam: 20%, Final Exam: 20%. Absence from 3 class sessions may result in a lowering of your final grade.

CLASSROOM COLLEAGUES: Please choose TWO students whom you will be able to contact in case you miss a class and need to know of any assignments or announcements or need to borrow their class notes.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES: Please consult the Undergraduate Bulletin for this information.