**APUSH SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: LET’S GO TO THE MOVIES**

The objective of this assignment is to expand your knowledge of a particular historical period through the analysis of a related film. It is an opportunity to experience a richer encounter with history than can be provided by the textbook. You will select a film that covers some aspect of the subject matter covered in the AP United States History course. The movie could cover an historical event, a prominent historical figure, institution, or a historical period. You will be responsible for critically viewing the work, and evaluating how the movie was produced, the sources of the director’s information, biases, areas of neglect or emphasis, and the author’s point of view. After viewing, you will prepare a review of the work using the guidelines below.

Please see list of films below. Each film may be reviewed by only one student. To avoid duplication, you must select your film by opening the Google Form associated with each time period. You may only choose 1 film for this assignment. Do not choose more than one.

The film selection sheet will be available starting at 9:00 AM on June 26th.

If you would like to review a film not on the list, please obtain approval from Mr. Evans ([tsevans@fcps.edu](mailto:tsevans@fcps.edu)) or Mr. Viccora ([maviccora@fcps.edu](mailto:maviccora@fcps.edu)).

This assignment will be due **September 18/19.**

**Part 1: Film Analysis Paper (50 Points)**

**Intro (1-2 Paragraphs) (5 Points):**

* First sentence should include the name of film, leading actors/actresses/director, the date of release, and main point or thesis of the film. (Is it based on a book?)
* A **brief** summary of the plot.

**Analysis (30 Points:** 20 for historical accuracy, 10 setting accuracy**):**

* **Historical Accuracy** (2-3 paragraphs). Were the movie characters based on actual people? If so, who were they and were they treated accurately? Were there any real events (battles, protests, laws, etc.)? If so, were they historically accurate? If there were no real characters or events, it was probably a conscious decision on the part of the writers and director. Try to analyze why reality was omitted.
* **You will need to do some research**. Use historical sources to back up your claims! Parenthetically, cite the sources you use. You are required to have at least 3 sources. Acceptable sources include: books, academic/scholarly articles or websites, government websites, museum/university websites, etc. Some examples of acceptable sources include:

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/>

<https://millercenter.org/president>

<http://www.history.com/>

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/

<https://www.archives.gov/>

http://www.historynet.com/

* **Setting Accuracy** (1-2 Paragraphs).When and where was the movie set? If several locations were used, were they all depicted realistically? How long a time span did it cover? Were the houses, furnishings, foods, tools, music, weapons, clothes, hairstyles, shoes, etc. shown with accuracy? Give examples of period props you think especially well or especially poorly presented. Use historical sources to back up your claims!
* **Suggestion**: Take notes while you’re watching so you can be specific in analysis!

**Evaluation/Conclusion (10 Points):**

* Evaluation – Provide an evaluation of the film. Don’t just say “I liked it because it was a good movie” or “I hated it because it was boring.” Examine the strengths and weaknesses of the movie. Which actors did a good job and which were inadequate? Were there places where the plot was weak? If the film was done years ago, would it be done differently now? Why? What would have made the film better? Would you recommend the film to another student? Use examples from the film to support your points.

**Formatting (5 Points)**

* Must be typed, well-organized, **times new roman size 12 font, 1 inch margins and 3-4 pages** double-spaced.

**Part II (50 Points –** 30 points poster 20 points pitch sheet**)**

**Poster**: Imagine you are making a historically accurate remake of your movie (even if it was made recently). Make a movie poster for your remake. Include the following in your movie poster:

-Director

-Lead Actor

-Supporting Actors

-Brief Netflix-Style Description

-MPAA Rating

This should be on regular, poster-size paper. While you not be graded on your artistic skills, **you will be graded on the effort that you put into your poster.** Be sure to include **color** and to make writing legible. Posters will be displayed in the classroom.

Point breakdown:

-All information included (15)

-Effort and Creativity (15)

**Pitch sheet**: No more than one page. You are “selling” your movie to the studio (Evans-Viccora Productions). What led you to choose to remake this movie? Why should the studio get behind it? What impact will it have? Why would today’s audience be interested in it? Include a brief description of the historical event, person, institution or period that will be portrayed.

Point breakdown:

-Creativity and Persuasiveness (10)

-Historical Accuracy (10)

**Possible Films (note some of the films carry an “R” rating)**

**Click on the link to sign up for your choice of movie.**

**[Pre-Colonization through Revolutionary War](https://docs.google.com/a/fcpsschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYVopiUMPMEuIIsjpbE-7oYOx-z8bE-I_7b3_qt_pDYA7UNQ/viewform) 🡸 Click Here to Sign Up for one of these movies.**

* The Crucible (1996) – Salem witch trials; Puritans
* The New World (2005) – Jamestown and Pocahontas
* The Scarlet Letter (1995) – Puritan Society
* Last of the Mohicans (1992) – French & Indian War
* 1776 (1972) – musical about writing the Declaration
* The Patriot (2000) – Revolutionary War
* John Adams (2008) – (miniseries🡪watch at least 2 episodes)
* The Crossing (2000)- Revolutionary War
* **The American Revolution – mini-series (watch two episodes)**
* **Liberty: The American Revolution – mini-series (watch two episodes)**

[**Early America before Civil War**](https://docs.google.com/a/fcpsschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0hN8denV07_xvHbzuG_FDwXF8CS-MyWo7v77jdsNJoaCvlA/viewform) **🡸 Click Here to Sign Up for one of these movies.**

* Jefferson in Paris (1995) – French Revolution, Sally Hemmings
* The Buccaneer (1958) – War of 1812
* Amistad (1997) – 1839 slave ship uprising and trial
* **In the Heart of the Sea – Herman Melville & the story of Moby Dick**
* **The Birth of a Nation (2016) – Nat Turner slave revolt**
* The Alamo (2004) – 1836 battle of Texas Revolution
* Roots (1977) – slavery (miniseries🡪 watch at least 2 episodes)
* 12 years a slave (2013) – slavery

[**Civil War and Reconstruction**](https://docs.google.com/a/fcpsschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScL4KD2-J1uD501ykGoh4gFq5eOGQxbnxc-u0hcjtL8nKgD5g/viewform) **🡸 Click Here to Sign Up for one of these movies.**

* Santa Fe Trail (1940) – Lead--‐up to the Civil War
* Gone With The Wind (1939) – Antebellum and Civil War South
* Gods & Generals (2003) –rise and fall of Stonewall Jackson
* Lincoln (2012) – Civil War and slavery
* Gettysburg (1993) – decisive battle of the Civil War
* Gangs of New York (2002) – Civil War era cities and immigrants
* Glory (1989) – Civil War; African--‐American regiment 54th Massachusetts
* Cold Mountain (2003)- Civil War love story
* Birth of a Nation (1915) – silent, rise of the KKK
* **Ride with the Devil – Missouri during the Civil War**
* **The Civil War – Ken Burns mini-series (watch two episodes)**

[**The West and Indian Wars**](https://docs.google.com/a/fcpsschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdEQoFEpmW8ZipF1ENsYocfuAsbJ-JF8Po4BerhILERZncujw/viewform) **🡸 Click Here to Sign Up for one of these movies.**

* Into the West (miniseries about Indian Wars and life in the west🡪 watch at least 2 episodes.
* Tombstone (1993)– life in the old West
* Buffalo Soldiers (1997) – African Americans in the West
* Dances With Wolves (1990) –Civil War era relations with Native Americans
* Far & Away (1992) – Immigration and Western Expansion
* The Molly Maguires (1970) – 1876 coal miners’ strike
* True Grit (2010)- western
* Wyatt Earp (1994)- Western
* Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee (2007) – Indian Wars
* **Open Range – cattle ranching & cowboys**
* **Little Big Man (1970) – the West, including battle of Little Big Horn**
* **Soldier Blue (1970) – Sand Creek, CO massacre**
* **Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid – outlaws in the West**
* **The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford**
* **The Long Riders – Jesse James gang’s exploits**
* **The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid – similar to above**

[**Gilded Age and Imperialism including World War I**](https://docs.google.com/a/fcpsschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2Tvtb1dL-iP2nv-wktZ3FvHUy4GjCZ-b-HfzESI79RXb7Zg/viewform) **🡸 Click Here to Sign Up for one of these movies.**

* Newsies (1992)- Progressive Movement and Child Labor
* **The Rough Riders – TR and the Spanish American War\**
* **Wind and the Lion – TR (mostly foreign policy**
* **The Lost Battalion – WWI**
* **The Murder of Mary Phagan – race relations in the South**
* **Legends of the Fall – follows brothers from a Montana family**
* **The Age of Innocence – high society NY**
* **Somewhere in Time – man travels back to meet a star he idolizes**

[**1920s and Great Depression**](https://docs.google.com/a/fcpsschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTuWiB6kJ9eZ5fi0Z-7WKHzHlUHiTdwYp46bOrB90GlTPk_A/viewform) **🡸 Click Here to Sign Up for one of these movies.**

* The Great Gatsby (2013) – 1920s culture
* Inherit the Wind (1960) – Scopes Monkey Trial
* Matewan (1987) – Coal Mining Strike during the 20s
* Cinderella Man (2005) – Depression Era boxer
* The Color Purple (1985) – Civil Rights and life during the Depression
* Grapes of Wrath (1940)– Depression in the Plains and California
* Iron Jawed Angles (2004)– Women’s movement
* A League of Their Own (1992) – Baseball and women’s rights
* Seabiscuit (2003)- A depression-era racehorse
* **Rosewood – racer relations in the South**
* **Heaven’s Fall – Scottsboro Boys case**
* **Eight Men Out – Chicago White Sox World Series Scandal**
* **No God, No Master – first Red Scare**
* **The Untouchables – organized crime**

[**World War II**](https://docs.google.com/a/fcpsschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvBhb95gQfRYGamsGvbB6RZakBlp_xT0o9u19xqn4bSXQH3w/viewform) **🡸 Click Here to Sign Up for one of these movies.**

* Tora, Tora, Tora (1970) – Pearl Harbor
* Pearl Harbor (2001) –World War II
* Memphis Belle (1910) - WWII
* The Longest Day (1962) – D-Day (John Wayne)
* Band of Brothers (2001) – World War II, 101st Airborne
* The Pacific (2010) – World War II, Pacific theater (miniseries🡪 watch at least 2)
* Letters from Iwo Jima (2006) – WW II from the Japanese Perspective
* Flags of Our Fathers (2006) – American Soldiers who raised the flag on Iwo Jima
* Schindler’s List (1993) – World War II, concentration camps
* Saving Private Ryan (1998) – World War II
* Unbroken (2014)- Japanese Prisoner of War
* Fat Man and Little Boy (1989)-Atomic Bomb
* Midway (1976)- World War II
* The Tuskegee Airmen (1995)- Story of the African-American airmen
* The Pianist- Holocaust
* Life is Beautiful- Holocaust
* The Best Years of Our Life (1946) – WW II soldiers return home
* Patton (1970)- Story of the World War II General
* Saints and Soldiers (2003)-American soldier during world war II
* Windtalkers (2002)-Story of the Navajo code talkers
* **The Big Red One – WWII infantry division**
* **The Thin Red Line – battle of Guadalcanal**
* **A Soldier’s Story – race issues in WWII**
* **The Great Raid – rescue of POWs from Japanese camp**
* **When Trumpets Fade (HBO) – battle of the Hertgen Forest**
* **The Battle of the Bulge – WWII**
* Fury (2014)- World War II US Tank Crews

**[Post-World War II America](https://docs.google.com/a/fcpsschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWPNRszzYF7eMiXjB44k7KPs8YvCeSX22f8dF9MQAVM21H2g/viewform) 🡸 Click Here to Sign Up for one of these movies.**

* Best Years of Our Lives – Post WW II society
* October Sky (1999) –Post Sputnik; boy meets rocketry
* Good Night and Good Luck (2005) - McCarthyism
* The Majestic (2001) – McCarthyism; Hollywood blacklisting
* Pleasantville (1998) – 1950s America
* Forrest Gump (1994) – various events 1950s through 1980s
* American Graffiti (1973) – American life during the 60s (a young Harrison Ford)
* Two Days in October – protest of Vietnam War at University of Wisconsin
* All the President’s Men (1976) – Watergate
* Nixon (1995) – biography of President Richard M. Nixon
* Frost- Nixon (2008) – Watergate
* JFK (1991) – Kennedy assassination
* Bobby (2006) – JFK’s younger brother
* Twelve Angry Men (1957) – Jury Decision
* To Kill a Mockingbird (1962) – Civil Rights
* **Gideon’s Trumpet – trial of Clarence Earl Gideon**
* **The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit – 1950s corporate America**
* **Avalon – eastern European Jewish immigrant family “becoming Americans” in Baltimore**
* **61\* - story of Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle chasing Babe Ruth’s homeroom record**
* **The Aviator – story of Howard Hughes**
* **J. Edgar – story of J. Edgar Hoover**
* **Parkland – assassination of JFK**
* **All the Way (HBO) – LBJ**
* **The Path to War (HBO) – Vietnam (and Civil Rights)**

[**Cold War and Vietnam**](https://docs.google.com/a/fcpsschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb9mcmuKmvPVI8aCvC8umzTR4l7AKBYtOawPn2S9ziB33hAQ/viewform) **🡸 Click Here to Sign Up for one of these movies.**

* Fail-Safe – Nuclear war
* The Right Stuff (1983) – 1950s Cold War, beginning of space race
* Apollo 13 (1995) – Space Race, journey to the moon
* Thirteen Days (2000) – Cuban Missile Crisis
* We Were Soldiers (2002) – Vietnam War
* Platoon (1986) –Vietnam War (a young Charlie Sheen)
* Good Morning Vietnam (1987) – Vietnam War
* Dr. Strangelove (1964)- Nuclear Holocaust
* The Kennedy’s Miniseries- (must watch 2 episodes)
* Born on the Fourth of July (1989)-Vietnam War Protester
* Full Metal Jacket (1987)-Vietnam War
* Apocalypse Now (1979)- Vietnam War
* The Killing Fields (1984)- Journalist trapped in Cambodia
* Argo (2012)- Iranian Hostage Crisis
* Charlie Wilson’s War (2007)- cold war involvement in Afghanistan
* **A Bright Shining Lie - Vietnam**

[**Civil Rights**](https://docs.google.com/a/fcpsschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoYQYjnn01BhqzlR5Nay7UXIfn3HPkZV_OJ8uRTanmYGzbzQ/viewform) **🡸 Click Here to Sign Up for one of these movies.**

* Race (2016)- Jesse Owens and 1936 Olympics
* Mississippi Burning (1998) – Civil Rights
* In the Heat of the Night (1963) – Civil Rights
* Selma (2014) – Civil Rights
* 42 (2013) – Jackie Robinson
* A Time to Kill (1996) –Civil Rights
* Mississippi Burning (1986) – the murder of 3 civil rights workers
* Malcolm X (1992) – influential Black Nationalist leader
* To Kill a Mockingbird (1962) – Civil Rights
* The Help (2011)-Civil Rights Movement
* A Raisin in the Sun (2008 )- Civil Rights
* Ali (2001)- Story of boxer/civil rights activist Ali
* **Ghosts of Mississippi – trial of Medgar Evers accused killer**
* **Remember the Titans – Northern VA**

[**Post -Cold War**](https://docs.google.com/a/fcpsschools.net/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehEHU7hKO5KefE-FlEgO-tYmG16hC457TGm_cfUuYbo3nLIg/viewform) **🡸 Click Here to Sign Up for one of these movies.**

* United 93 (2006) – 9/11 terrorist attacks
* Miracle (2004) – Cold War
* Spotlight (2015)-2002 Priest Sexual Assault Scandal
* Jarhead (2005)- Operation Desert Storm
* Black Hawk Down (2001)- US involvement in Somalian war
* World Trade Center (2006)- 9/11
* W. (2008)- President Bush
* The Hurt Locker (2008)- Operation Iraqi Freedom
* Zero Dark Thirty (2012)- Capture of Osama bin Laden