

AP U.S. Government Film Review List

Up to 20 points extra credit possible

Teacher: Mrs. Sullivan

11-15-10

AHS MC	Ames Public Library	Film Title
DVD BEI	DVD COMEDY BEI	Being There (1979) Chance, a simple gardener, has never left the estate until his employer dies. His simple TV-informed utterances are mistaken for profundity.
DVD BUL	---	Bulworth (1998) A suicidally disillusioned liberal politician puts a contract out on himself and takes the opportunity to be bluntly honest with his voters by affecting the rhythms and speech of hip-hop music and culture.
DVD CIT	DVD DRAMA CIT	Citizen Kane (1941) A group of reporters who are trying to decipher the last word ever spoke by Charles Foster Kane, the millionaire newspaper tycoon: "Rosebud." As the reporters investigate further, the viewers see a display of a fascinating man's rise to fame, and how he eventually fell off the "top of the world."
VTR 364.154 CRI	---	Crime of the Century (1996) This film dramatizes the investigation against Bruno Hauptmann, alleged kidnapper of the Lindbergh baby in 1932 and paints a picture of a corrupt police force under pressure to finger a killer framing an innocent man.
DVD FAI	DVD DRAMA FAI	Fail Safe (1964 or 2000) American planes are sent to deliver a nuclear attack on Moscow, but it's a mistake due to an electrical malfunction. Can all-out war be averted? 1964 version is better.
DVD IN	DVD DRAMA IN	In Cold Blood (1967) After a botched robbery results in the brutal murder of a rural family, two drifters elude police, in the end coming to terms with their own mortality and the repercussions of their vile atrocity.
DVD LAR	---	The Laramie Project (2002) Members of New York's Tectonic Theater Project went to Laramie, Wyoming after the murder of Matthew Shepard. This is a film version of the play they wrote based on more than 200 interviews they conducted in Laramie. It follows and in some cases re-enacts the chronology of Shepherd's visit to a local bar, his kidnapping and beating, and the events that follow.
DVD 324.0974 LAS	324.0974 (DVD) LAS	The Last Man Standing: Politics Texas Style (2004) A documentary film featuring Karl Rove, the late Ann Richards, and the late Molly Ivins telling the story of a state congressional race in Texas 2002, Rick Green* (R) vs. Patrick Rose (D).
DVD 363.72 LIB	---	Libby, Montana (2004) This documentary film show nestled below the rugged peaks of the Northern Rockies and along the crystal-clear Kootenai River lies the small logging town of Libby, Montana - an ironic setting for a town where many hundreds of people are sick or have already died from asbestos exposure and the company "causing" it is aware and doing nothing.
DVD MAT	---	Matewan (1987) Mingo County, West Virginia, 1920. Coal miners, struggling to form a union, are up against company operators and gun thugs; Black and Italian miners, brought in by the company to break the strike, are caught between the two forces.
DVD MIS	---	Miss Evers' Boys (1997) The true story of the US Government's 1932 Tuskegee Syphilis Experiments, in which a group of black test subjects were allowed to die, despite a cure having been developed.
DVD ON	DVD DRAMA ON	On the Beach (1959) The residents of Australia after a global nuclear war must come to terms with the fact that all life will be destroyed in a matter of months.

AHS MC	Ames Public Library	Film Title
DVD SEV	---	Seven Days in May (1964) U.S. military leaders plot to overthrow the President because he supports a nuclear disarmament treaty and they fear a Soviet sneak attack.
VTR 973.927 TAI	---	Tailspin: Behind the Korean Airline Tragedy (1989) Chronicle of the shooting down of a Korean passenger plane by Soviet air force on 1st September 1983. Over 280 people died in this incident.
DVD TWE	DVD DRAMA TWE	Twelve Angry Men (1957) The jury is filing into the jury room to decide if a young Spanish-American is guilty or innocent of murdering his father. What begins as an open and shut case of murder soon becomes a mini-drama of each of the jurors' prejudices and preconceptions about the trial, the accused, and each other. Based on the play, all of the action takes place on the stage of the jury room.
DVD WAG	DVD DRAMA WAG	Wag the Dog (1997) After being caught in a scandalous situation days before the election, the president does not seem to have much of a chance of being re-elected. One of his advisers contacts a top Hollywood producer in order to manufacture a war in Albania that the president can heroically end, all through mass media.
DVD 322.42 WEA	322.42 (DVD) WEA	The Weather Underground (2002) For the youth political movement of the 1960s and 70s, the seemingly ineffectual methods of peaceful protest and resistance led to the rise of an idealistic faction that want a more extreme approach that the Establishment could not ignore. This faction attempted to team up with the Black Panthers to violently confront the US government This documentary shows both sides of this conflict.
DVD YEA		The Year of Living Dangerously (1982) A young Australian reporter tries to navigate the political turmoil of Indonesia during the rule of President Sukarno with the help of a diminutive photographer.

ASSIGNMENT: Select one of these films and write a well-organized and highly literate REVIEW. Remember that a review differs from a report in that the focus is on an EVALUATION rather than simply content. Be sure that you include in your review how the film is related to our government class.

Give a brief summary of the film but focus more on the director's purpose in making it and whether or not he or she was effective. Consider the storyline, the actors, the music and other cinematographic elements. Lastly consider if the film has lasting value in terms of its message to society.

Two (2) pages at least and include examples from the film to defend your evaluation.