

Humanities 12 Honors 2015-16

Read, Prep, Participate, Reflect

Honors to students will read and annotate each text, fill out a pre-seminar worksheet, and possibly watch a few related video clips. We will compare schedules and decide on seminar times. Honors students will post a seminar reflection on their DP or in their DS journal and should reference one of these works (or the films below) in either their term paper or digital story.

The Grand Inquisitor by Fyodor Dostoevsky - A chapter in Dostoevsky's masterpiece *The Brothers Karamazov*, this text imagines that Christ returns to Earth during the height of the Spanish Inquisition, only to be imprisoned by this powerful church official who interrogates him about whether man should have free will. *Seminar: week of September 20th*

Angels in America by Tony Kushner - An epic tragicomedy set in the 1980s dealing with the HIV/AIDS crisis, national politics, and questions of faith and community, this play won all the awards in 1993 and is arguably the most famous play written in the last twenty years. *Two seminars: weeks of October 11th and October 25th*

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller - This 1949 play uses family relationships to raise fundamental questions about the American economic system. It's also a meditation on hope, dreams, and fathers and sons. We'll use this to inform our study of economics. *Seminar: week of December 6th*

Top Girls by Caryl Churchill - This 1982 play by British playwright Caryl Churchill looks at the expectations placed on women by our economic system. It shows the sacrifices that women have to make to get to the top in a man's world. *Seminar: mid-January*

Watch and Write

Honors students will choose one or two films (depending on length) from the following list to watch and post a reflection on their DP or in their DS. Most are available for free on YouTube but you can choose to rent or stream them as well.

Documentaries

Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton - The story of the woman's suffrage movement

Lincoln: A House Divided - A personal look at Abraham and Mary Lincoln

The Roosevelts: An Intimate History - Parts 1-3 and/or Parts 4-7 - A fantastic documentary on the lives of Theodore, Franklin, and Eleanor Roosevelt

Prohibition - A three part documentary on the passage and eventual repeal of the 18th amendment to the Constitution

The Crash of 1929 - A documentary about the stock market crash and its aftermath in the Depression

The Great Depression - A seven-hour documentary on The Great Depression and how it fundamentally altered American life and politics.

Eyes on the Prize - A definitive five-part documentary on tracing the civil rights movement from 1954 to 1965.

The Kennedys - A four-hour documentary about one of the most famous and influential families of the 20th century

JFK - A four-hour documentary about the myth, the reality and the contradictions of one of our more iconic presidents

RFK - A four-hour documentary about RFK's brother, Robert, who embraced change and embodied the aspirations of a nation trying to heal itself.

Cuban Missile Crisis: Three Men Go to War - A documentary about the world's brush with nuclear war

LBJ - An epic documentary on one of the greatest legislative leaders in our history and a presidency of great domestic promise foiled by Vietnam War.

Citizen King - A two-hour documentary about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Freedom Riders - A documentary about the courageous efforts of college students to end Jim Crow segregation across the South.

Freedom Summer - The drive to end voter suppression in the Jim Crow south puts the lives of young Americans at risk in Mississippi

Chicago 1968 - A documentary about the explosive Democratic National Convention of 1968 that ended Democrats control of The White House and helped elect Richard Nixon as president

Nixon - A documentary about a president with a brilliant political mind whose obsessive paranoia plunged the nation into crisis

Stonewall Uprising – A documentary about the uprising at a New York City bar that began the gay rights movement.

Ronald Reagan - A four-part documentary about a most unlikely president who galvanized the conservative movement.

Clinton - A four-part documentary about the "comeback kid," who guided the America through the 1990s

Congress - Ken Burns' documentary about the successes and failures of our legislative branch

Inside Job - The Academy Award winning documentary that explains 2008's financial crisis and the systemic greed that crashed our economy

Films

John Adams - An HBO mini-series about one of the most misunderstood of our founding fathers.

12 Years a Slave - The Academy Award-winning film about a free black man who is captured and sold into slavery in 19th century America.

Lincoln - Stephen Spielberg's portrait of our most beloved president and the passage of the 13th amendment

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington - Frank Capra's 1939 film about corruption in the American political system made Jimmy Stewart a movie star.

Gandhi - Sir Richard Attenborough's portrait of India's spiritual leader as it gained independence from the British Empire, masterfully acted by Ben Kingsley

Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom - A film about the remarkable life of Nelson Mandela and his fight to free South Africa from apartheid.

All The President's Men - A 1976 film that tells the story of the reporters who broke the story of Watergate that stars Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman.

Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb - A 1964 satire about nuclear war and in the incompetence of government.

Thirteen Days - A film that dramatizes the Cuban Missile Crisis and shows how close we came to nuclear war.

Malcolm X - A three-hour film about the remarkable life of Malcolm X and his rise from prison to a leader for civil rights

Milk – A film about San Francisco city commissioner Harvey Milk, a leader in the battle for civil rights for the gay community

If you have another idea for a film or documentary that you'd like to watch, let me know

Group Project

Honors student **might** take on additional responsibilities surrounding the exhibition of our group project for A More Perfect Union. This will depend on the nature of the exhibition, which depends upon what we, as a class, decide to do.

Senior Project

Honors students will write a longer term paper (12 to 20 pages) and must use at least eight academic sources within their research.