**AP US History Movie Review**

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 Advanced Placement United States History course.  The movie could cover an historical event, a prominent historical figure, institution, or a historical period.  Works of fiction are not suitable unless they are part of a study of a particular historical period.  You will be responsible for critically viewing the work, evaluation 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. (If you would like to review a film not on the list, please email me for me for conformation)

**Guidelines for Movie Review:**

1.      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?)

2.      A brief summary of the plot.

3.      Historical Accuracy – Were the movie characters based on actual people?  If so, who were they and 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.  Parenthetically, cite any sources you use.

4.      Setting – 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.

5.      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.

Must be typed and double spaced; should be between 2-3 pages in length

Should pick a movie which aligns with the topics and eras covered during that quarter

You can only do one for extra credit each quarter

**Suggestions:**  take a brief list of notes while watching the film and back up your ideas with specific examples