# Unit 6: Satire and Social Commentary - Fixing our Flaws Through Film

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s): **Film as Art: Dream and Nightmare**
Time Period: **January**
Length: **5 weeks**
Status: **Published**

## Enduring Understandings

Film is a unique lens that allows us to view societal flaws, hypocrisies, and wrongs, to evaluate our own participation in these, and to take corrective measures.

## Essential Questions

How does is humor an important tool in exposing societal flaws, hypocrisies, and wrongs?

What role do each of us play in the shortcomings of our own society?

What corrective measures can be taken to improve social moral codes?

## Content

**Potential works of study:**

Charlie Chaplin's Modern Times (G) and City Lights (NR)

Gene Kelly's Singin' in the Rain (NR)

*Mike Nichols' The Graduate (NR)

George Clooney's Good Night, and Good Luck (PG)

Kubrick's Dr. Strangelove (PG)

*Jason Reitman's Thank You For Smoking (R)

Marx brothers' Duck Soup (NR)

*Julie Taymor's Across the Universe (PG-13)

*Films may be censored per teacher discretion.

Films may be shown in part or in whole.

## Skills

Examine satire as a unique and specific tool of humor that explores societal flaws, hypocrisies, and wrongs through thought provoking laughter.

Define satire and its various sub-components.

Identify the social commentary of films that use satire to explore social and cultural shortcomings.

## Resources

## Standards

VPA.1.4.12.B.CS1 - [*Content Statement*] Aesthetic Responses & Critique Methodologies: All students will demonstrate and apply an understanding of arts philosophies, judgment, and analysis to works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.

VPA.1.4.12.A.1 Use contextual clues to differentiate between unique and common properties and to discern the cultural implication

VPA.1.4.12.A.2 Speculate on the artist's intent, using discipline-specific arts terminology and citing embedded clues to substantiate the hypothesis.

VPA.1.4.12.A.3 Develop informed personal responses to an assortment of artworks across the four arts disciplines (dance, music, theatre, and visual art), using historical significance, craftsmanship, cultural context, and originality as criteria for assigning value to the works.

VPA.1.4.12.A.4 Evaluate how exposure to various cultures influences individual, emotional, intellectual, and kinesthetic responses to artwork.

VPA.1.4.12.B.1 Formulate criteria for arts evaluation using the principles of positive critique and observation of the elements of art and principles of design, and use the criteria to evaluate works of dance, music, theatre, visual, and multimedia artwork from diverse cultural contexts and historical eras.

VPA.1.4.12.B.2 Evaluate how an artist's technical proficiency may affect the creation or presentation of a

work of art, as well as how the context in which a work is performed or shown may impact perceptions of its significance/meaning.

VPA.1.4.12.B.3 Determine the role of art and art-making in a global society by analyzing the influence of technology on the visual, performing, and multimedia arts for consumers, creators, and performers around the world.

NJSLSA.W1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

NJSLSA.W.11-12.1.A Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

NJSLSA.W.11-12.1.D Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g. formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

NJSLSA.W.11-12.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

NJSLSA.W.11-12.6 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

NJSLSA.SL1.11-12 Inititate and prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

NJSLSA.SL.11-12.1.B Collaborate with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and assessments (e.g. student developed rubrics), and establish individual roles as needed.

NJSLSA.SL.11-12.1.D Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task. SL.11-12.2. Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.

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| LA.W.11-12.1 | Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. |
| LA.W.11-12.1.A | Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. |
| LA.W.11-12.1.D | Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing. |
| LA.W.11-12.4 | Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.) |
| LA.W.11-12.6 | Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared |

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| | writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information. |
| LA.SL.11-12.1 | Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. |
| LA.SL.11-12.1.B | Collaborate with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and assessments (e.g., student developed rubrics), and establish individual roles as needed. |
| LA.SL.11-12.1.D | Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task. |
| VPA.1.4.12 | All students will demonstrate and apply an understanding of arts philosophies, judgment, and analysis to works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art. |
| VPA.1.4.12.A.1 | Use contextual clues to differentiate between unique and common properties and to discern the cultural implications of works of dance, music, theatre, and visual art. |
| VPA.1.4.12.A.2 | Speculate on the artist's intent, using discipline-specific arts terminology and citing embedded clues to substantiate the hypothesis. |
| VPA.1.4.12.A.3 | Develop informed personal responses to an assortment of artworks across the four arts disciplines (dance, music, theatre, and visual art), using historical significance, craftsmanship, cultural context, and originality as criteria for assigning value to the works. |
| VPA.1.4.12.A.4 | Evaluate how exposure to various cultures influences individual, emotional, intellectual, and kinesthetic responses to artwork. |
| VPA.1.4.12.B.1 | Formulate criteria for arts evaluation using the principles of positive critique and observation of the elements of art and principles of design, and use the criteria to evaluate works of dance, music, theatre, visual, and multimedia artwork from diverse cultural contexts and historical eras. |
| VPA.1.4.12.B.2 | Evaluate how an artist's technical proficiency may affect the creation or presentation of a work of art, as well as how the context in which a work is performed or shown may impact perceptions of its significance/meaning. |
| VPA.1.4.12.B.3 | Determine the role of art and art-making in a global society by analyzing the influence of technology on the visual, performing, and multimedia arts for consumers, creators, and performers around the world. |