**Ms. Cornish-Bowden**

**Film Studies Periods 1, 3 and 6**

**Weeks 4 and 5**

**Contemporary Film Review**

**Complete one film review for week 4 (this will be turned in no later than 5/15/20 and graded) and another one for week 5 (this will not be turned in or graded).**

This assignment is an opportunity to apply what you have learned this year to a contemporary film of your own choice.  Select a new film that has just been released or one that has been made available recently for home viewing (PG13, PG, or G).  Choose a movie that genuinely interests you or puzzles you - a movie that you want to think about and examine more carefully than usual.  Since this will be a critical review, you need to go beyond a simple statement of your likes and dislikes.  Be prepared to use what you have learned about film technique, theory, and history to illuminate this film.  Find out more about the director, the actors and the issues so you can make an informed evaluation.

***Answer each of the following questions thoroughly and in complete sentences; remember to respond to each component of each question. Please type your responses and send them to*** ***jbowden@tusd.net*** ***as a Word document. Do NOT forget to include your complete name and period number in the subject line of your email. If you do not have access to a computer then you can answer by hand but your writing must be in pen and must be legible or you will not receive any credit.***

1. What struck the most responsive chords in you?  How can you account for such a strong emotional or intellectual response?  To what extent do you believe that your response can be generalized to other viewers?  Why? (5pts)
2. Were there any exceptionally good (or bad) uses of music, dialogue, camera work, editing, or special effects?  Considering what you now know about the process of producing film, what are the film’s technical strengths and weaknesses? (5pts)
3. What were the principal roles and how well were they performed?  Were the actors typecast or miscast?  How credible were their performances? (5pts)
4. **Plot**. Outline just enough of the story so a reader who has not seen the film can understand your comments. How original, how compelling, did you find the plot? (Bear in mind that I may not have seen the film you choose so your description can not be vague.) (5pts)
5. **Themes**. What are the main ideas or issues of the film? Is it a simple love story, or does it make a thought provoking statement about certain kinds of relationships? Are there any hidden or blatant messages? Are the messages distracting, intrusive, or integrated with the plot? (5pts)
6. **Genre**. Does this film belong to a class of similar films, such as Westerns, horror films, or musical comedies? If so what other what other films does it resemble? What are the common characteristics of these films? Why do you think this genre is popular today? (5pts)
7. **Representation**. How does the film represent different kinds of people: men and women, rich and poor, various ethnic groups? Why do you think it represents them in this way? (5pts)
8. **Ideology**. What cultural beliefs (e.g., about sexuality, politics, family) were challenged or confirmed by the film? How was this accomplished? (5pts)