Each student must complete the summer viewing for US History. The purpose of these additional viewings is to promote independent life-long learning. Every student must watch two movies, one from each group of movies listed. A movie review must be completed to demonstrate comprehension of movie, understanding of the cultural impact of the movie, and application to prior learning.

  o **Movie Review**: This needs to be typed and submitted to your Blog
    o 750-1500 words
    o Include student’s opinion of the story; not just a summary
    o Why the movie is important (Correctness and Influences)
    o Links to three other movie reviews
    o MLA Citations

All activities are due the second Friday of the school year, and it is the student’s responsibility to turn in the assignments on time. Any students, who enroll after July 15, must contact Mr. Wilson about completing the assignment. Email: bryan.wilson@eku.edu  Webpage: modelbfw.wordpress.com

**Group One: The Bad Movies! (Select One Movie)**

Considered one of the worse movies about the American Revolution, this overtly violent film follows the life of a colonial plantation owner turned terrorist/revolutionary. Based loosely on the lives of Francis Marion and Charles Sumter, it includes Mel Gibson as the lead and Heath Ledger as his son.

*Pearl Harbor* (2001) Directed by Michael Bay (Rated PG-13 for war images, wounded, brief sensuality and language)
If it were made today it would be called the Transformers of WW2 movies. Explosions followed by more explosions, and finally some more explosions. The story follows two friends and their journey during the first years of the war. Amazing things included are the Battle for Brittan, the attack on Pearl Harbor and the first bombing of Tokyo.

*Birth of a Nation* (1915) Directed by DW Griffith (Not Rated contains overt racist themes, violence, and glorification of KKK)
The movie was developed and created to idealize slavery, the south during and after the war, and the rise of the KKK. It was used as a recruiting tool for the KKK and should be viewed with caution. It is an epic silent film that should never be made again.

This second movie in the Jeff and Michael Shaara Civil War series follows the rise of Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson during the first two years of fighting in the American Civil War. Its war scenes are framed by a plot that overly simplifies the struggle of state’s rights and creates a false idealism of slavery in the South before the war. The only thing worse than some of the fake beards is the acting; however, Jeff Daniels plays a great role, again.
Group Two: The Best! (Select One Movie)

Gettysburg (1993) Directed by Ronald F. Maxwell (Rated PG for language and epic battle scenes)
Made by Ted Tunner's film company, this is the most epic of the Civil War Movies, over three hours in length. It revolves around the five days of extended fighting in Pennsylvania during the Gettysburg campaign. Fake beards are everywhere but Jeff Daniels plays a great role as Col. Joshua Chamberlain and Tom Barringer makes a great turn as Gen. Longstreet.

Wizard of OZ (1939) Directed by Victor Fleming (Rated PG for some scary moments)
Considered by many to be one of the best musicals of the 1930's it is homage to the writing of Frank L Baum. Many never know the metaphorical meanings of the story or the major plot changes from the book. It is as much a record of the 1930's as it is of the 1880's.

Gone with the Wind (1939) Directed by Victor Fleming (PG for Brief War Violence Including Peril, Some Sensuality and Brief Language)
Known as, “The movie that brought the Civil War into everyone's heart,” it is based on Margret Mitchell's best seller. This movie is Hollywood big at its finest and holds records still unbroken today. However, it shows what Mitchell thought the South was like and possibly the unwilling “consensual” rape of Scarlet O'Hara.

High Noon (1952) Directed by Fred Zinnemann (Rated PG for some western violence, and smoking )
One of the best western movies ever created; however, it is completely historically incorrect. High Noon set the standard for the lone sheriff versus the renegade gunman.

Who shot Liberty Valance (1962) Directed by John Ford (Not Rated: Contains smoking and some violence.)
Another example of Hollywood westerns, however, this time the making of a hero is confused by the truth. A man made famous by the death of a rogue gunslinger, comes back home to tell the truth. It is considered by John Wayne and James Stewart to be one of the best Westerns ever.

This is the story of Mary Surratt, the lone woman charged in the assassination of President Lincoln. The story follows the investigation of the assassination of Lincoln and the days following the end of the war.