

2022/2023 Honors Study Topic Film List
The Art and Science of Play

10 Parks That Changed America (2016)

This docuseries studies the impact on parks on their cities. Parks explored include New York's Central Park, Squares of Savannah, San Antonio's River Walk, and Seattle's Freeway Park.

Abstract: The Art of Design (2017)

Designers Olafur Eliasson, Neri Oxman, Ruth Carter, and others focus on the ways design has an impact on everyday life. Episode 4 of this docuseries focuses on design for play with Cas Colman, founder of Heroes Will Rise toy company.

Anthony Bourdain Parts Unknown (2013-2018)

The late Anthony Bourdain traveled the globe and introduced viewers to people and food from myriad locales in this CNN series.

Athlete A (2020)

A documentary that focuses on the trauma caused by Dr. Larry Nassar and the people who enabled him in his abuse of female gymnasts as well as the resilience of the athletes.

Baby Animals Around the World (2017-present)

This docuseries focuses on baby animals as they move through the day and highlights animals who live in different part of the globe.

Baking Impossible (2021)

Teams of bakers and engineers, or bakineers, compete in a series of challenges in this Netflix reality series.

Basketball or Nothing (2019)

The first season of this docuseries tells the story of the Chinle High School basketball team from the Navaho Nation in Arizona and its quest to win a state championship.

Becoming Cousteau (2021)

This National Geographic documentary explores the life of adventurer and pioneer Jaques-Yves Cousteau and the ways in which his life's work exploring the ocean has had an impact on our lives.

Bedtime Stories (2008)

Bedtime stories told by their uncle come true for two children. As they add their own details to their uncle's stories, the children alter the direction of their lives and their uncle's life.

Bend It Like Beckham (2002)

Jess Bhamra has the talent and desire to play professional soccer, though her conservative Indian family denies her request. The film follows Jess' exploration of her skills as a semi-pro soccer player and her efforts to hide her participation from her parents.

Big Brother (2000-present)

A group of people lives in a sequestered house with cameras running 24/7. They complete in activities for an opportunity to win \$750,000.00 as the last person remaining in the house.

Blown Away (2019 – present)

In this Netflix television show, master artisans complete in glass blowing competitions.

Bring It On (2000)

In this film, California high school cheerleaders struggle to compete with integrity and creativity in regional and national competitions.

Catwalk: Tales from the Cat Show Circuit (2018)

This film explores the cats and humans that are part of Canada's cat show circuit.

Cheer (2020-present)

This Netflix series follows coach Monica Aldama and the Navarro College cheerleading squad as they practice and compete for a national championship.

Chef's Table (2015-present)

Chefs who are changing the global culinary landscape are featured in this Netflix television show.

Chennai (2007)

A Bollywood film about street cricket in India

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (2009)

A scientist, regarded as a failure, invents a machine that makes food fall from the sky with interesting results.

Colin in Black and White (2021)

This documentary explores the life and career of football star Colin Kaepernick.

Come Play (2020)

A boy who spends his time playing online with his tablet and smartphone is hacked by a monster who enters his world in this horror film.

D2: The Mighty Ducks (1994)

The film focuses on the Mighty Ducks attempt to win the Junior Goodwill Games in California.

Dancing with the Birds (2019)

Director Huw Cordey investigates the play involved in birds' mating rituals.

Despicable Me (2010)

Villain Gru hatches a plot to steal the moon and copes with minions who are supposed to carry out his plan as well as three girls who want to make Gru their father.

Drumline (2002)

A talented New York drummer is recruited to play at a southern university and struggles to adapt to playing with the marching band.

Encanto (2021)

A family that lives in the mountains of Colombia have magical gifts, all except Mirabel, who will fight to protect the Encanto.

Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)

Ferris Bueller and his two best friends skip a day of school to play in Chicago during their senior year of high school.

Field of Dreams (1989)

An Iowa farmer is inspired by a disembodied voice to create a baseball diamond in a cornfield where the ghosts of his late father and members of the 1918 White Sox team will arrive to play a game.

Flubber (1997)

An inventive scientist discovers "flubber," a rubber substance he believes will save Medfield College.

Ford v. Ferrari (2019)

This film explores the development of a history-making vehicle for the Ford Motor Company and the challenges faced by the designers and drivers.

Friday Night Lights (film, 2004 and television series, 2006-2011)

The film and television series were based on the book by H. G. Bissinger about the champion Permian High School Panthers football team from Odessa, Texas.

Goonies (1985)

A group of friends discover an ancient map that they believe will lead them to pirate treasure and set out to find it.

Great British Bake Off [Great British Baking Show] (2010-present)

Amateur bakers compete to be named the greatest baker in Britain.

Happy Feet (2006)

An Emperor Penguin who cannot sing is born into a culture where song is an important part of finding a mate. He learns to share his gift of dance.

Happy Feet Two (2011)

This film is a continuation of the story of Mumble, the Emperor Penguin who cannot sing, as he and his friends face a new challenge to their home.

High Score (2020)

This docuseries is comprised of interviews with the designers of early video games.

Hip Hop Evolution (2016)

The history of hip hop is explored in this Canadian docuseries.

Hook (1991)

“Hook” is the story of Peter Pan, Captain Hook, and the Lost Boys.

Hoosiers (1986)

This film is based on the real-life story of the 1954 Milan High School basketball team that won the Indiana State Basketball Championship.

Huckleberry Finn (1974)

Huckleberry Finn escapes an abusive father and meets up with runaway slave, Jim, for an adventure on the Mississippi River in the 1840s.

Hunt vs. Lauda: F1's Greatest Racing Rivals (2013)

This film explores the competition between James Hunt and Niki Lauda for the 1976 Formula 1 championship.

In Balanchine's Classroom (2021)

This documentary tells the story of New York City Ballet's George Balanchine.

Knute Rockne: All American (1940)

Knute Rockne was an All American football player and legendary coach at Notre Dame, and this film highlights his career.

Jumanji (1995)

Two children play a magical board game and, as a result of their play, release a man trapped for years in the game.

Jumanji: The Next Level (2017)

The team is back to play a game that has changed. The players endure a series of adventures to help a friend escape.

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (2017)

Four teenagers are drawn into a magical video game and have to complete the game to escape.

King Richard (2021)

“King Richard” is the story of tennis greats Venus Williams and Serena Williams and how their father fed their talent and his dreams for them.

Kung Fu Panda 3 (2016)

Po faces natural and supernatural challenges as he continues his adventures and becomes the teacher.

Last Chance U (2016)

This Netflix docuseries follows college football teams, including one from East Mississippi Community College, as they vie for championships.

Leap! (2016)

Félicie wants to be a ballet dancer. Her best friend Victor wants to be an inventor. This film follows Félicie to the Paris Ballet where she auditions for a role in “The Nutcracker.”

Leaving Las Vegas (1995)

An alcoholic and self-destructive screenwriter and a prostitute establish a relationship in Las Vegas.

Making It (2018-present)

Hosts Amy Poehler and Nick Offerman challenge crafters with mastery in different media to create projects to earn the title “Master Maker.”

Maniac Magee (2003)

This film is the story of an extraordinary boy and the people he meets as he searches for a home.

Man on Wire (2008)

James Marsh's documentary traces the planning and execution of Philippe Petit's 1974 stunt to walk a high wire between New York City's World Trade Center towers.

March of the Penguins (2005)

Luc Jacquet's documentary follows Emperor Penguins in Antarctica as they make the annual journey to their traditional breeding grounds.

Mary Poppins (1964)

Nanny Mary Poppins teaches siblings Jane and Michael Banks to play in turn-of-the-20th Century London.

Mary Poppins Returns (2018)

Mary Poppins returns to help Jane and Michael's children find joy at a difficult time.

Meddling (2021)

This four-part television series explores the figure skating scandal surrounding the 2002 Olympics pairs skating competition.

Meet the Robinsons (2007)

An inventor meets a mysterious stranger, and together they enter a time machine to find the Bowler Hat Guy with unexpected results.

Minions (2015)

Minions are recruited for a scheme to take over the world.

Miracle on Ice (1981)

This is the story of the 1980 gold medal-winning USA Olympic hockey team.

Monkey Planet (2014)

Monkeys play as they live and survive in the wild. This British docuseries examines the worlds of monkeys.

Monsters, Inc. (2001)

Two monsters who work at the world's largest scare factory when their world is breached by a human girl.

Monsters University (2013)

This prequel to “Monsters, Inc.” follows Mike and Sully as they meet at Monsters University.

Monterrey Pop (1968)

Documentary footage of the 1967 Monterrey Pop festival in California highlights the performances of artists Simon and Garfunkel, the Mamas and the Papas, Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Jefferson Airplane, Otis Redding, and more.

Mr. Magorium’s Wonder Emporium (2007)

This film is the story of an apprentice in a toy store who learns to believe in herself.

My Octopus Teacher (2020)

A filmmaker and diver meets an octopus while diving off the coast of South Africa who enchants him.

Neverland (2004)

“Neverland” is the fictionalized story of J. M. Barrie and the family that inspired him to create his character, Peter Pan.

October Sky (1999)

Based on a true story, a coal miner's sons. One earns a football scholarship and the other learns to build rockets. Both endeavors earn the sons college scholarships.

Pan (2015)

Peter Pan’s story from his life as an orphan to Neverland and beyond

Pele (2021) and Pele: The Birth of a Legend (2016)

Two documentary films that tell the story of soccer (football) great Pele and his career as the world’s most famous and accomplished player.

Peter Pan (2003) and Peter Pan (1953)

Two versions of the story of the Darling family children, their dog, Nana, and Peter Pan

Peter Pan 2: Return to Never Land (2002)

The story of Wendy Darling who in World War II era London is kidnapped by Captain Hook in order to draw Peter Pan back to Neverland

Peter Pan and Wendy (2022)

This is a live action version of the J. M. Barrie story about Peter Pan.

Quincy (2018)

Musician and icon Quincy Jones is the focus of this documentary about his life and work.

Rain Man (1988)

Brothers Charlie and Raymond travel across the United States together after their father left his fortune to Raymond.

Ready Player One (2018)

Set in 2045, this film follows a young man who joins a contest to trade his real-life troubles for a virtual one. Along the way, he learns about friendship, loyalty, and other skills that turn him into a leader and a hero.

ReMastered: Devil at the Crossroads: A Robert Johnson Story (2019)

This documentary film tells the story of Blues pioneer Robert Johnson and explore the mystery surrounding his life and music.

Remember the Titans (2020)

The story of the challenges and opportunities faced by a high school football team as it is being integrated.

Robin Williams: Come Inside (2018)

The story of actor and comedian Robin Williams' life and work

Robots (2005)

An idealistic inventor in a world of robots travels to a big city for a new job and faces the company's sinister management team.

Rudy (1993)

This film is the story of Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger and his quest to play for the Notre Dame football team.

She Ball (2020)

Hulu series about a man who recruits friends to help him win a street ball tournament to earn funds to save a local community center.

Sing (2016) and Sing 2 (2021)

Humanoid animals compete in singing contests

Stranger Things (2016-present)

A group of Indiana teenagers work together to untangle supernatural and governmental mysteries in their small town.

Studio 54 (2018)

A documentary film about the history of New York City's Studio 54 and its impact on nightlife

Survivor (2000-present)

A group of people are stranded in a remote location and compete to be the last person standing – the survivor – for \$1,000,000.00

That's Entertainment (1974)

This is a film that celebrated the golden age of MGM Studios with clips from 100+ song and dance numbers from myriad MGM films.

The 100 Years Show (2016)

This documentary film highlights the career of Cuban American abstract painter, Carmen Herrera, whose work became famous in 2004 when Herrera was in her 90s.

The Amazing Race (2001-present)

Teams of two travel the world, engaging in tasks along the way, in pursuit of \$1,000,000.00.

The Big Leap (2021)

Amateur dancers are recruited for a reality television production of "Swan Lake" in this television series. Their individual and collective stories are revealed as they are selected for the cast and rehearse for the live television performance.

The Bridge to Terabithia (2007)

This film follows the characters Leslie and Jesse as they create the imaginary world of Terabithia to escape their real-life roles of outsider and tormented student.

The Edge (1996)

Inspired by David Mamet's screenplay, billionaire Charles Morse joins his wife's modeling shoot in Alaska and finds that the information he has acquired while at leisure will perhaps save his life and the lives of fellow passengers on a plane trip that goes terribly wrong.

The Greatest Showman (2017)

Based on the life of P.T. Barnum, this musical film explores the world of circus performers.

The Last Blockbuster (2020)

This documentary tells the story of the last Blockbuster video store in the world that is located in Bend, Oregon.

The Last Dance (2020)

This ten-part docuseries explores Michael Jordan's career with the Chicago Bulls as the team works for its sixth National Basketball Association (NBA) championship in eight years.

The Little Rascals (1994)

Featuring characters developed in the 20th Century, this film tells the story of friends who are competing, girls against boys, for a soapbox derby title.

The Mind, Explained (2021, 2019)

Episodes of this Netflix series explore creativity, mindfulness, and other elements of the science of play.

The Mighty Ducks (1992)

A Minnesota lawyer sentenced to community service serves as a coach to a youth hockey team

The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble (2016)

Renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and a series of musicians gather in different places around the world to explore the ways music can preserve tradition and foster cultural evolution.

The Power of Play/The Nature of Things (2019)

Creators of this television series take viewers around the world to explore the science of play.

The Queen's Gambit (2020)

A young woman learns to play chess during the Cold War era and becomes a world champion.

The Rookie (2002)

Based on the true story of Jim Morris, this film follows Morris' journey as a minor league baseball player and high school baseball coach who, at the urging of his team, tries out for a major league team.

The Sandlot (1993)

Scottie Smalls moves to a new neighborhood and meets a group of boys who play baseball at the sandlot and engage together in adventures.

The Squid Game (2021)

This television show explores what happens when a group of people compete with deadly results in children's games to earn a grand prize.

The Tragedy of Macbeth (2021)

This adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy uses the language of the original play performed by contemporary artists.

Tom and Huck (1995)

Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn witness a murder and work together to prove the person charged with the crime did not do it.

Toys (1992)

Lieutenant General Leland Zevo inherits a toy factory that, under his leadership, begins to manufacture military toys. Factory employees work together to top Zevo before he destroys the public image of the factory.

Toy Story (1995)

“Toy Story” is about the relationship between a cowboy, Woody, and an astronaut, Buzz, who the cowboy fears, will replace him in the affections of the boy in whose room the toys live.

Toy Story 2 (1999)

Woody is stolen by a toy collector and destined for display in a museum. Buzz and his friends save Woody.

Toy Story 3 (2010)

Their boy leaves for college, and Woody, Buzz, and the toys are sent to a day care center instead of the attic where they would be kept for their human.

Undefeated (2011)

This documentary about Manassas High School’s football team traces the history of its lack of success on the field to, under a new coach, a possible playoff win – a first for the school in more than 100 years.

Viva Las Vegas (1964)

Elvis Presley played a race car driver who needs to earn funds to purchase a new car and race for the championship. The action takes place in Las Vegas.

Water for Elephants (2011)

Based on the novel of the same title, this film explores the challenges and opportunities of performers in an early 20th Century circus.

We are Marshall (2006)

Based on a true story, members of the Marshall University football team and some coaches and fans are killed in a plane crash. This film traces the opportunities and challenges faced by the new coach and surviving players to rebuild the football team.

Woodstock the Movie (1970)

A documentary about the 1967 counterculture music festival in Bethel, New York in which Joni Mitchell, Santana, Crosby, Stills, and Nash, Joan Baez, Sha Na Na, Richie Havens, and other artists are featured.

Won't You Be My Neighbor (2018)

This documentary explores the life and career of television star Mr. Rogers.

Wreck-It Ralph (2012)

Wreck-It Ralph decides to take on his nemesis, Fix-It Felix to finally win a game and be the hero of the arcade game in which they live.