

Harold and Maude Socratic Seminar

Film meets philosophy: Intertextuality!!!

The film is a cult classic from the 1970s starring Bud Cort and Ruth Gordon with an original soundtrack by Cat Stevens.

We will watch the film with attention to the philosophical lenses we have been studying: **existentialism and Aristotle's Eudaimonia**.

You will annotate the film and answer seminar prep questions before Tuesday's seminar.

After the seminar, you will write a reflection and a synthesis. The synthesis entails several paragraphs of analysis with evidence based on a literary claim drawn from the seminar themes.



Harold and Maude Seminar Prep (HOMEWORK?!)

Think of a film as a text. Annotate it as you watch, analyze, look for evidence. Refer to the specifics of the film in the seminar!

AFTER THE MOVIE....Prepare answers to 3-5 of the following questions, using evidence from the film to support your answers. Also, generate 3-5 divergent questions to bring to the seminar. Print out your seminar prep and bring it with you to the seminar.

1. Is *Harold and Maude* an existentialist film?
2. What are the roots of Harold's angst and alienation? How do his ideas about happiness and meaning evolve as a result of his relationship with Maude? How does his character change?
3. Has Maude achieved Eudaimonia at the end of her life (deathbed question)? Would Aristotle see her as having cultivated virtue and the Golden Mean? Or do you see her as more of an existentialist? Or something else?
4. What message is this movie trying to transmit? What might it be trying to teach us about Happiness and Meaning? How does it impact you personally?
5. Identify 2-3 impactful quotes from the film and explain their literary significance.
6. Generate 2-3 questions to bring to the Socratic seminar.

SEMINAR: *Harold and Maude* (Tuesday, Feb 8th)

Seminar Group 1:		Seminar Group 2:	
Julia E Rio Sidney Nia Chloe Alexis Skye Coleman Charlie Jude Grayson	Ashlee Lucy Ella Maddy Harper Ewan Griffin Clay B Ian Abby	Julia G Ellise Jamie Scarlett Roan Jaida Nizhoni Toby James Joe Sage	Za Aspen Cassidy Victor Clay P Kade James Cyrus Asher Jerry Jake

Seminar Post-write (DUE WEDNESDAY, FEB 9 @ midnight):

1. Reflection/Self-Assess

- Reflect on the outcome of the seminar. Consider your own performance and the seminar overall. How did you do personally and how did the group do collectively? Based on the [rubric](#), what grade do you deserve on the seminar?
- React to your peers' ideas (be specific) and the meaning you all constructed together. Was there anything that enlightened you? Something you particularly disagree with? How did your thinking about the film change as a result of this seminar?

2. Synthesis

- Make an **interpretive claim** about the film and support it with evidence. Your claim may be something you develop further from your seminar prep, or it may be a new idea that you acquired during the seminar. Write 1-3 paragraphs in support of your claim.
 - RESOURCES ON MAKING CLAIMS
 - [Handout](#)
 - [Powerpoint](#)

Here is [a link to some movie quotes](#) that you may want to integrate into your synthesis.