Name: Date: Period:

***1492: Conquest of Paradise* (1992) Viewing Guide**

*Please complete the questions below in detail as you watch the film. The questions will be answered in order*

1. What role did the Catholic Church/religion play in Christopher Columbus’ voyage?
2. Describe Columbus’ interaction with the leaders at the University of Salamanca. Do they support his ideas? Why or why not?
3. Why does Columbus’ crew grow angry and frustrated after they have been at sea for awhile? What does he do to calm their concerns?
4. Describe Columbus and his crew’s reaction when they finally reach landfall.
5. Describe the first encounter between Columbus and his crew and the natives of the island they have landed upon. Is this a positive or negative interaction? How so?
6. How would this initial encounter between Europeans and Native Americans represent a “clash of cultures”?
7. How does Columbus “show off” what he has found/discovered in the New World after he has returned to Spain?
8. Describe Columbus’ second visit to the New World. How is it different from when he and his crew first came to the island?
9. What has happened to the fort Columbus’ men were left behind to build and maintain when Columbus sailed back to Spain?
10. How do the Europeans attempt to recreate Europe in the New World?

1. What event causes the natives to turn against the Europeans?

1. What does Columbus mean when he says, “Paradise and Hell can be earthly. We carry them with us where we go.”? How does this connect with the interactions between the natives and Europeans at this point in the film?

1. What happens to Columbus after he is forced to return to Spain?

1. How does the film’s portrayal of Columbus match up with how you have viewed Columbus in your mind?
2. The director of this film, Ridley Scott--who also directed films such as *Aliens*, *Gladiator*, and *Black Hawk Down*--was criticized for the way in which he portrayed Christopher Columbus in this film. Critics argued that he only showed Columbus as a hero and left out historical details about his crimes against and mistreatment of Native Americans. What does this tell us about the nature of **historical perspective** and interpretation? Can we *ever* truly tell the story of the past accurately?