

IB Film Syllabus

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IB Film 1 is an advanced, year-long elective course in the study of cinematic history, analysis, and production. Students intending to earn an International Baccalaureate diploma must also enroll in **IB Film 2** during their Senior year. In addition to learning the standard Video-Film curriculum, students will study international films, compose a Textual Analysis demonstrating their understanding of how meaning is constructed in film, and complete a Comparative Study, identifying and comparing two films from within a chosen focus area in a recorded multimedia presentation. They will watch films from around the world and develop their ability to understand film as a unique art form, craft, and institution. They will be challenged to experience a broader and more diverse range of movies than they are perhaps used to seeing and, most importantly, watch and experience films actively and analytically. Students will learn to recognize and interpret the most important elements of film language and analyze the way filmmakers convey story and meaning. They will examine a wide range of film styles and movements and explore critical approaches to the study and appreciation of film. Students will also have the opportunity to demonstrate and apply their growing cinematic understanding in the production of original films. Although students will be trained in the basics of digital camera operations and digital editing on Adobe Premiere Pro, a sufficient computer literacy will be required to complete and present certain assignments.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to provide students with the skills for textual analysis of film, an understanding of film theory and history, and techniques necessary to produce original films. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate:

- An understanding of the variety of ways in which film creates meaning
- Effective use of appropriate film language
- Originality/creativity in developing an idea through the many stages of filmmaking: conception to finished product
- Technical skills and an appropriate use of available technology
- The ability to draw knowledge, skills, research, and experience, and apply them analytically to evaluate film texts
- A critical understanding of the historical, theoretical, socio-cultural, economic, and institutional contexts of film
- from more than one country
- The ability to research, plan, and organize film projects

R-Rated Films:

Students will screen a variety of films from different eras, countries, and genres by distinguished filmmakers. Some of the films have mature/adult themes while others contain strong language and/or violence. Please be assured that the films selected have a high degree of artistic merit and are deemed worthy of study by the IB program and film scholars. Since an "R" rating allows the viewing of these movies by those under the age of 17 if accompanied by a responsible adult or guardian, your consent will allow me to act in that capacity in the classroom. We will discuss any/all controversial aspects of the films.

Mandated IB Assessments:

- **Textual Analysis:** (max 1,750 words) of a prescribed film text based on a chosen extract (max 5 mins), and list of sources.
- **Comparative Study:** Recorded multimedia comparative study (max 10 mins), and list of sources.

Expectations:

Out of Class Work: To help students develop their filmmaking and editing skills, and prepare them to do well on the mandated IB assessments, students will be expected to spend time working on both individual and group film projects outside of class. Students who are taking other rigorous courses or who are involved in other activities that also require time investments outside of class must be willing to plan accordingly. For many assignments, students will be working in groups, and it is the students' responsibility to work equitably in groups and complete all assignments appropriately. While it may be true that a student "does not have homework tonight," that does not mean they do not have work they could and should do for IB Film.

Screenings: Because our classes are often too short to view an entire feature film, and because students might be absent during a screening, some assigned films must be viewed outside of class. Students are, therefore, recommended to acquire a subscription to a streaming service such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, or Hulu.

Participation: Students are expected to attend class regularly and actively contribute during screenings and class discussions. There will be some class activities in which students will receive participation points that cannot be made up if absent.

Late Work Policy: Due dates are given well in advance for all major/mandated assignments; homework assignments, though not given often, are used in class the day they are due – therefore as a general rule, late work is not accepted.

Plagiarism: Honesty in all work is expected at all times. Specifically, the IB program requires that all work submitted for assessment be "authentic, based on the student's individual and original ideas with the ideas and works of others fully acknowledged." Plagiarism, as well as any other form of cheating, is a serious offense and will result in a 0 for the assignment. Subsequent offenses may result in the student's removal from the course.

Copyrighted Material: Film ideas, sounds, and music must always be ORIGINAL and COPYRIGHT FREE.

Attendance Policy: The district policy will be followed. It is the student's responsibility to identify/makeup missed notes and assignments and to meet posted due dates for major projects and tests. This can easily be done by checking the class website, speaking with a classmate, or contacting the teacher. Students who miss a class when work is due but are at school for any other part of the day must turn in their work that day. Students will be given one day for every EXCUSED ABSENCE to complete missed class work and homework. Exams and quizzes must be made up within three school days of the date that they were given and can only be made up if the absence is excused. Please talk to me in advance if you have a conflict and cannot meet this time frame.

Pre-arranged Absences: A student with a pre-arranged absence must request assignments in advance and keep in contact with group members regarding any ongoing production projects. Students may be asked to submit announced long-term assignments before their absence.

Protocol for Film Viewing: For this class you will be watching films/shorts/film excerpts that require your full attention. For this reason, you will be required to adhere to the following film viewing protocol:

1. While you will actively watch films in class by taking notes, jotting down questions, observations, etc., do not talk or ask questions during the screening of a film. Time will always be provided to discuss movies, scene, characters, etc. Please wait for those opportunities.
2. Additionally, absolutely no phones, laptops, iPads, etc. are to be used during full film screenings. If used at an inappropriate time, these items may be subject to confiscation.
3. Don't tell others what is about to happen or the ending of a film; do be open to films outside your comfort zone.
4. It is very distracting when people start packing their work up early. Please do not do it.

Recommended Supplies:

- A 3-ring, 1.5-2" binder with loose-leaf paper and 5 tabbed dividers marked: Film Viewing Activities, IBF Assessments, IBF Materials, Production Handouts, and Production Projects
- 1 flash drive for saving work and video, preferably 16GB or more;
- An SDXC or SDHC memory card for filming with the DSLR cameras (32GB or more). [*There are some available for class group projects on a fair-share basis—see instructor]
- Pens, pencils, highlighters, and sticky notes

STUDENT & PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURES

My parents and/or guardians and I have read the course syllabus for IB Film and understand all the requirements and expectations for this course including the viewing of R rated movies.

STUDENT Printed Name: _____

STUDENT Signature: _____

STUDENT Email Address: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN Printed Name: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN Signature: _____

Do you have a favorite movie? If so, what is it?
