

IB Film Cinematography Syllabus 2018-2019

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Welcome to Film and IB Film! This is a beginning and advanced course in film history, analysis, and production. You'll watch films from around the world and develop your ability to understand film as a unique art form, craft, and institution. You'll be challenged to experience a broader and more diverse range of movies than you are perhaps used to seeing and, most importantly, watch and experience films actively and analytically. You'll learn to recognize and interpret the most important elements of film language and analyze the way filmmakers convey story and meaning. You'll also examine a wide range of film styles and movements and explore critical approaches to the study and appreciation of film. You will also have the opportunity to demonstrate and apply your growing cinematic understanding to create your own films. The use of technology in class will be extensive. You will need to be sufficiently computer literate to edit projects and present them.

1) 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

4) Units of Study

Unit 0 Career Essentials	30	Unit 9 The Film Journal	5
Unit 1 Screenwriting	10	Unit 10 Collaborative Film Project (IB HL)	5
Unit 2 Blocking and Acting	10	Unit 11 Working in Film Production Roles	50
Unit 3 Camera and Lens	25	Unit 12 Reading Film and The Textual Analysis (45)	15
Unit 4 Light Design	10	Unit 13 Contextualizing Film and Comparative Study (45)	30
Unit 5 Sound Design	20	Unit 14 Pre-Production (30)	25
Unit 6 Editing	15	Unit 15 Production (30)	25
Unit 7 Visual Story - Film Language	30	Unit 16 Post-Production (30)	25
Unit 8 Exploring Film Production Roles & Film Portfolio	30	YEAR TWO TOTAL	180
YEAR ONE TOTAL	180	TOTAL HOURS	360

3) Grading

Level	Letter	Skyward High %	Skyward Low %	Descriptor
4	A	100.00%	92.50%	Advanced. Consistently exceeds proficient level of standard(s).
3.5	A-	92.49%	86.67%	Proficient but partial success at advanced level.
	B+	86.66%	80.84%	
3	B	80.83%	75.00%	Proficient. Consistently (usually) meets standard(s).
2.5	B-	74.99%	66.67%	Basic but partial success at proficient level.
	C+	66.66%	58.34%	
2	C	58.33%	50.00%	Basic. Inconsistently (occasionally) meets standard(s).
REDO				

Category	Family Access Label	Percentage of Total Grade
Film Projects/Presentations	Projects	50%
Homework/Quizzes	Homework / Quizzes	20%
In-Class Assignments/Participation	Participation	20%

Leadership	Leadership	10%
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4) 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.

5) Filming and Being Filmed

IB Film is both a theory and production course on film; students will be working with cameras and other equipment that will involve them being filmed or photographed. Student work may be used in class for presentations and possible school-wide events; due to the nature of the class, your student will not be able to complete all of the work without being filmed, please be aware of this. Also, given the nature of the work being done both in and out of school time, physical teacher supervision cannot be guaranteed throughout the filming process.

6) Mandated IB Assessments

- HL External Assessment - 40%
 - **20% Textual analysis**
 - Textual analysis (max 1,750 words) of a prescribed film text based on a chosen extract (max 5 mins), and list of sources
 - **20% Comparative study**
 - Recorded multimedia comparative study (max 10 mins), and list of sources
- HL Internal Assessment - 60%
 - **25% Film portfolio**
 - Portfolio pages (max 9 pages: 3 pages per production role) and list of sources
 - A film reel (max 9 mins: 3 mins per production role, including 1 completed film)
 - **35% Collaborative film project**
 - Completed film (max 7 mins). Project report (max 2,000 words) and list of sources

7) Expectations

A. Outside 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.

B. Mandatory After-School Screenings: Because our classes are less than an hour, there are few opportunities in class to watch full-length feature films. Students are required to attend mandatory after-school screenings one Thursday a month for the first semester. Films will start promptly at 2:30 pm in room F1, and students are required to stay for the entire movie. If a student cannot stay after school for a particular film, movies shown will be available via Netflix and/or Amazon Instant Video, and/or DVD checkout students will receive instructions as to the requirements for viewing a required movie outside of school.

C. Participation: This course is based on students’ interaction with the course material and concepts. Students are expected to actively contribute their thoughts to the class and/or to assigned groups. These interactions may be formal or informal; additionally, there will be some activities in class that will receive participation points that cannot be made up if absent. Students are expected to be on time and ready at the beginning of each class. Missing class, whether excused or not, will hamper your ability to get the most out of it.

D. 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, no late work is accepted.

E. Plagiarism: Honesty in all work is expected at all times. Plagiarism/any form of cheating is a serious offense and will result in a 0 for the assignment and disciplinary action.

F. Attendance Policy: It is the student’s responsibility to identify/makeup missed notes and assignments and to meet posted due dates for major projects. This can easily be done by checking the class website. 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 day absent to complete missed class work and homework. 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 current with all aspects of the class. Students may be asked to submit announced long-term assignments before their absence.

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

- 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.
- Additionally, ABSOLUTELY NO phones, laptops, iPads, etc. are to be used during the film screenings. If used at an inappropriate time, these items may be subject to confiscation.
- Don’t tell others what is about to happen or the ending of a film; do be open to films outside your comfort zone.
- It is very distracting when people start packing their work up early. Please do not do it.

H. Materials: Students should have with them daily:

1. You will need a edublogs.org blog account for publishing projects
2. Access to media storage (device/cloud) - OSD student Google Drive will work
3. Students are expected to create, shoot, and edit films for the class. There will be access to equipment needed to complete all projects but are encouraged to use their own cameras/computers for completing these projects.

I. Safety Policy: Students will participate in safe online and listening activities. Students and parents will sign and follow the class social media contract, capitalcomtech.info/2017/02/14/contract-information/

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Signatures

Student Name (Printed) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

This syllabus is based upon the work of [Elisabeth Bacon, IB Film instructor at Skyline High School in Issaquah, WA](#)