

## IB Film 2019-2020

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*Welcome to IB Film.* This is an 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. You'll have the opportunity to demonstrate and apply your growing cinematic understanding to produce 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 all stages of filmmaking: conception to finished product
- Technical skills and an appropriate use of available technology
- 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

### 2) Grading:

Category	Family Access Label	Percentage of Total Grade
Film Projects & Presentations	<i>Projects</i>	35%
In-Class Assignments & Participation	<i>Participation</i>	30%
Homework & Quizzes	<i>Homework Quizzes</i>	25%
Final Exam	<i>Final Exam</i>	10%

★ *Note: Due to the nature of scaffolding film knowledge to understand and to create films, many assignments cannot be turned in late for a score as you will be building upon the assignment posthaste. You will be made aware of these specific assignments when they are assigned and in Skyward.*

### 3) 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.

### 4) 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.

### 5) Mandated IB Assessments:

*External Assessments* Textual Analysis → analytical research paper examining a film/scene  
Comparative Study → video essay comparing elements in two films

*Internal Assessment* Film Portfolio → commentary/reflection and films from three production roles

## **6) 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. Participation:* Much of 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.

*C. Required Movie-Lunch-Dates:* Due to our school schedule, there are few opportunities in class to watch full-length feature films. But with our new block scheduling one Tuesday a month, students will attend class and remain there through the following lunch period. We will discuss as a class the options for what we will do about eating lunch (potluck, pizza, individual, etc.). Here are the tentative dates: 9/24, 10/15, 11/19, 12/3, 1/28, 2/11, 3/24, & 4/21.

*D. Late Work Policy:* Due dates are given well in advance for all major assignments, these dates are firm. Additionally 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 (see ★ note on #2). For assignments still beneficial to learning about film turned in late, there is a 10% loss of points per day late. PLEASE turn in your work on time, PLEASE!

*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. Subsequent offenses will follow school procedure outlined in the student handbook.

*F. 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. 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. 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 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:* For this class 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:

1. Please be thoughtful and courteous while watching films in class (feature films & peer's films). Additionally, absolutely no phones, laptops, etc. are to be used during full film screenings. If used at an inappropriate time, these items may be subject to confiscation.
2. Don't tell others what is about to happen or the ending of a film; do be open to films outside your comfort zone. And it is extremely distracting when people start packing their work up early. Please do not do it.

*H. Materials:* Students should have with them daily:

1. Notebook/binder and something to write with (*you will need a notebook/binder for notes on 1) Film Language/Technique/Analysis, 2) Film History, and for assigned writings*).
2. A personal SD card and access to media storage (device/cloud).
3. Students are expected to create, shoot, and edit films for 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.