

Introduction to Film

Valley Oaks Charter High School

Instructor: Mr. Todd Thorpe

Grade Level: 11-12

Requisite: None

Subject: Introduction To Film

Unit Value: 10 units

Course Length: 2 semesters

Course Description: This course is a film study course designed to introduce students to cinematic film techniques. Students in this course produce several film productions using a digital video format. Students will analyze visual language, artistic elements, and film genres and study the role of film as a part of cultural history. Class activities include planning and creating storyboards, directing, filming and editing productions for screenings.

Course Outline: Students will be required to complete assignments in class and also work independently at home. Students will need to attend film showings in class. Students will need to complete the key assignments of the course and create a digital film portfolio of their original movies.

Course Content/Objectives: The course objective is to acquire and develop an understanding of and a greater appreciation for the art and history of film. Students will learn to recognize the preconditions necessary for the invention of cinema. Students will identify the many ways that sound recording changed the nature of filmmaking. Students will identify the elements and themes of film genres and sub-genres. Students will understand the effect of cinematography and editing in storytelling and understand the verbal and visual vocabulary of cinema and film making.

Students will understand the effect of censorship on the film industry and how politics can play a role in movie content and popular cultural trends. Students will be able to understand the role of documentary film and identify the purpose and common elements found in this type of genre. Throughout the class the students will analyze film techniques, styles, genres, and think critically about the act of filmmaking, use of technology to create individual storyboards and complete key film assignment projects as part of a student portfolio.

Text: Looking At Movies: An introduction To Film by Barsam & Monahan

Class Participation: Responding to readings, lectures, film clips and screenings is an explicit part of this course, crucial for making it successful and enjoyable. Class attendance and participation are very important. The student is responsible for the completion of all work assignments. A missed class means missed material; any missed notes should be copied from another student. Missed film screenings will not be repeated during class time, students must make arrangements to view films on their own time.

Film Screenings: Film screenings will take place several times during each semester and may require two class meetings to complete the viewing of the film. These films offer different forms of cinematography and social content and may include contemporary subjects. Alternate films and lesson plans are not available.

Key Assignments:

- Write, shoot, and edit short digital films to be included in a portfolio.
- Complete all written assignments, quickwrites and lesson summaries.
- Complete the final exam and review the course work.

Equipment and Materials: Students are encouraged to have their own digital cameras with which to make films. A phone, pad or other mobile device with video recording ability will work well. The school has a limited number of cameras that can be checked out as needed. A \$100.00 refundable deposit is required for checking out a camera.

A computer and internet access at home is required for students to complete some projects. Basic video editing software (like iMovie) is required to complete film projects and is highly encouraged.

Also required: a three ring binder, notebook paper, pencils and black pens, dvd blanks for finished movies. Also recommended: a large capacity USB thumbdrive for saving/moving finished movies or other digital homework.

Assessment Methods: Students will receive a letter grade for completed projects, in class activities, at home assignments and writing assignments. Grades will be based on the quality of work for each individual and the student's knowledge of each technique. Student will also be graded on their thought, commitment and willingness to create original short films. Students are graded on participation and submission of work. Multiple choice, True-False and matching tests may be given to check student comprehension. Test scores will also be part of the final grade.

Grades:

93-100%	A	90-92%	A-		
87-89%	B+	83-86%	B	80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+	73-76%	C	70-72%	C-
60-69%	D	Below 60%	F		

Deadlines: All homework and film projects are expected to be turned in by the due date. Late assignments will be docked points up to 50 percent. After two weeks late assignments will not be accepted and will be graded at 0 points.

Note to Parents: This course may also include showing or mention of clips and/or images from current or recent films, as well as elements, movements, philosophies and historical content.

- **Parent's Duties:** Since it is the parent's job of supervising the student's work daily, it is important to stay informed about what must be done. Please refer to the weekly assignment sheet or packets for this information.
- **Student's Duties:** Students are given a great deal of freedom and independence in this program since they are not required to be supervised by the school every day. With that freedom comes responsibility. Students must be organized, self-motivated, and self-directed in order to be successful in this program. As well, communication is vital. Students must understand that their parents have dual roles as parents and teachers in this educational setting. The student must communicate with parents and the class teacher if there are any questions, concerns, etc.
- **Teacher's Duties:** The instructor is responsible for providing direct instruction, objectives, assignments, resources, and assessing students' mastery of the objectives. As well, the teacher will maintain records for grades and provide progress grades to the student regularly. The teacher is available during office hours, by phone or e-mail for both students and parents.

Please feel free to contact the instructor if you have any questions.

Todd Thorpe, tothorpe@kern.org or call Valley Oaks and leave a message at 661-852-6773.

PARENT SIGNATURE

REV:MTT 2017/01/11