

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION TO FILM: COURSE #910

Contact Information

Rick Kilpatrick
Communications/Social Studies Teacher
Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
36 Charter Road
Acton, MA 01720
Telephone: (978) 264-4700, x4169
Fax: (978) 266-1133
E-mail: rkilpatrick@mail.ab.mec.edu

The Department's Educational Philosophy

We believe that students should be exposed to the various methods, forms and history of communications. In such a technologically-based society, understanding the methods and impact of such forms of communications are highly vital. Students learn best from being directly involved in such communication methods, including within the environs of the television and radio studios, as well as digital editing laboratories.

GUIDING PRINCIPALS:

- An effective communications program develops students' ability to communicate accurately and precisely.
- An effective communications program emphasizes both cooperative and independent learning.
- Communications is integrally related to several other subject areas, including history, English, science, politics, government and mathematics.
- All students should develop a greater understanding of how communications impacts their everyday lives.
- All students should begin to develop their own methods of communicating in new and unique forms, including film, television, and radio.

INTRODUCTION TO FILM: COURSE #910

Course Frequency: Semester course, six times per six-day cycle

Credits Offered: Two and a half

Prerequisites: Instructor Approval – Parental Consent

Background to the Curriculum

This course was developed in the Summer of 2003 as a third elective in the Communications program. It was created in part as a response to the positive reaction to the two previously-developed courses, Introduction to Broadcasting and Media & Society. This course gives an introductory look into the history, impact, and technological aspects of filmmaking. Students view, discuss and analyze films, as well as plan, produce, shoot and edit their own short films.

While there are no specific state or federal standards regarding Film, the course does hit on several pre-existing standards covered in other curriculum areas, including United States history, civics and government, as well as English.

For more information on this course and its current set-up, contact Rick Kilpatrick in the high school Communications/Social Studies Department.

Core Topics/Concepts

Three styles of film (realist, classicist, formalist)

History of American cinema

Silent film era

Golden age of cinema

Film development, preproduction, production, postproduction and marketing

Camera shots, angles and movement

Cinematography (lighting and colors)

Mise-en-scene

Various forms of film editing

Sound in film

Acting

Foreign films

Film as documentary

Auteur theory

Race in cinema

Social aspects of cinema

Course-End Learning Objective

<u>Learning objectives</u>	<u>Corresponding state standards, where applicable</u>
1] Analyze films and classify their respective style(s).	Media #26
2] Comprehend the various eras of American cinema and their impact on society, both short and long term.	History #1, 4, 6
3] Plan, organize and submit a short film produced in small groups.	Media #27
4] Identify, understand the impact of, and create various types of camera shots.	Media #26, 27
5] Master the use of both mini-DV and DV digital video cameras.	Media #27
6] Master the use of the Mac iMovie-2 digital editing program.	Media #27
7] Identify, understand the impact of, and exhibit the various types of film editing.	Media #26, 27
8] Identify and understand the impact of mise-en-scene.	Media #26, 27
9] Identify, understand and exhibit the various types of film sound.	Media #26, 27
10] Identify and comprehend various types of stage and film acting.	Media #26
11] Compare and contrast the styles of American versus foreign cinema.	Media #26
12] Identify, comprehend and exhibit on type of documentary film-making.	Media #26
13] Analyze and discuss the supplemental articles assigned in class.	Media #26, Language #1, 2, 3
14] Select and critique contemporary films that are germane to the course.	
15] Critique in writing contemporary articles germane to the course.	Composition #19-23
16] Critique in writing several of the films viewed in class, from both a technical and thematic perspective.	Composition #19-23
17] Express oneself readily and effectively, especially when defending one's perspective of selected films.	Language # 1, 2, 3

Assessment

- Several film critique papers = 4-5 tests per quarter marking period
- Effort/participation = 1 test
- Producing own short film = 1 test per quarter marking period
- Numerous tests on unit topics and films = 2-3 tests per quarter marking period
- Contemporary film critique = final exam

Technology Learning Objectives Addressed in This Course

(This section is for faculty and administrative reference; students and parent may disregard.)

<u>Course activity: skills and/or topics covered</u>	<u>Technology standards addressed through this activity</u>
1] Internet research 2] Word processing 3] DV & Mini-DV Digital Video cameras 4] Mac i-Movie 2 digital editing program	
<hr/> 1] Several health-related themes covered within films viewed in class and followed up through class discussions.	<u>Health standard(s) addressed through this activity</u> Nutrition #3 Mental health #5 Family life #6 Interpersonal relationships #7

Materials and Resources

Films and short clips viewed in class are chosen from the following list. Not all films are used in each semester course:

Citizen Kane The Birth of a Nation Manhattan Scent of a Woman Platoon The Perfect Storm The Birds Dirty Harry Gone with the Wind Saving Private Ryan Apocalypse Now Life is Beautiful There's Something About Mary The Godfather Unforgiven	Casablanca Raging Bull Psycho Hunt for Red October Annie Hall Dr. Strangelove On the Waterfront Heat All About Eve Glory Chinatown Singin' in the Rain One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest American Beauty Roger and Me	The Blair Witch Trial Silent Movie It's a Wonderful Life The Seventh Seal Rebel without a Cause Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid Easy Rider Taxi Driver Ghost 2001: A Space Odyssey The River Wild Any Given Sunday Forrest Gump Gattaca Goodfellas
---	---	---

North by Northwest Rear Window Air Force One The Grifters The Graduate The 400 Blows The Untouchables Naked Gun 33 1/3 Braveheart Battleship Potemkin	Bowling for Columbine Hoop Dreams Mississippi Burning Triumph of the Will Do the Right Thing Breakfast Club Fast Times at Ridgemont High Deer Hunter American Graffiti Dog Day Afternoon	Norma Rae Terms of Endearment League of their Own Boys in the Hood Godfather II Adaptation Fargo Fight Club Spellbound Run Lola Run
--	---	--

- Numerous texts on film are used as references by the instructor.
- Various other sources are utilized, such as magazines, newspapers and Internet.