

Introduction to Film

Introduction to Film Studies offers students the opportunity to develop visual literacy and analytical skills through the close examination of significant filmic texts. Students will learn the language and essential techniques of film (shot composition, camera angles, editing, etc.) in order to appreciate and explore the form’s unique expressive abilities. This information will be combined with more familiar literary concepts (imagery, setting, symbolism, theme, etc.) to analyze the ways in which cinema is both similar to and different from written texts. Central concerns of the course include the translation of literature to cinema, the exploration of various filmic genres, the analysis and evaluation of films based on similar styles, themes and contexts, as well as the study of individuals who have made substantial contributions to cinema.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

* What are the functions and purposes of film?
* What is the origin of cinema?
* How has film (technique, production, genre) evolved?
* How does the legacy of cinema continue to influence contemporary filmmakers?
* What is the process of translating a written text into a filmic text?
* What are the specific features of filmic genres?
* What is the language of filmic technique?
* How do filmmakers utilize filmic technique to develop a purpose?

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Storyboard: Select a scene from a short story or screenplay and storyboard it before seeing that scene in filmic form.
2. Graded Discussion: Respond to films via in-class discussions, in-class response logs, or online conversations.
3. Reading: Read short stories/novel excerpts, screenplays, or combination of both. Read pieces on film technique, acting, and film history as well as critical film reviews. Some will be read in class, some at home.
4. Final project: presentation on a scene from an acclaimed film to analyze technique and purpose

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

* Follow general guidelines set forth in the student handbook.
* Attendance: If you miss a film, or a portion of a film, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to stream it or sign it out of a library ASAP in order to keep your log up to date, complete missed assignments, and participate in discussion.
* Respect: Be respectful of classmates and teacher in words and actions (avoid belittling language, keep an open mind to the films viewed and ideas presented in class).
* Engagement: Keep heads up and phones away during screenings. Listen to others, ask questions, and offer your own ideas. Popcorn and movie snacks are welcome for screenings. 😊

**EVALUATION**: Central Bucks East’s grading system works to assess information and skills that students have authentically learned. Some assignments will be submitted for formative feedback to monitor progress, while summative assessments will measure students’ mastery of skills. Do know that academic integrity is taken very seriously by the district and by me. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in serious consequences.

*It is my honor and my privilege to be your teacher. Through this course, I hope we can share our interest in film and broaden our understanding of its form and function.*

Sincerely,

Ms. Colleen Remar

cremar@cbsd.org

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

This letter provides additional information about films being used in your student’s elective Introduction to Film Studies class and asks you to indicate that your student has permission to view these texts.

Throughout this course, we will screen film clips (sometimes from films with R ratings) as visual examples of important filmic concepts. In designing instruction, I always consider the appropriateness of any text before introducing it into the classroom. Clips that I select for screening in our class are crucial to illustrating curricular concepts involving filmic history, technique and genre and, while some clips may come from feature-length films with an R rating, the clips themselves are relevant to course content and appropriate to classroom viewing.

At times students will have choice in viewing clips from modern films through the *New York Times* “Anatomy of a Scene” site. In the brief clips, the film’s director discusses elements of the scene, from filmic technique to artistic merit to production challenges. While some of the clips do come from R-rated films, the clips are classroom-appropriate.

If you are comfortable with your student viewing and discussing varied clips, please indicate that with a signature below. If you would prefer your student not be part of these screening experiences, he/she will be excused from class during these sessions, with alternative assignments provided. If you would like additional information about these viewing experiences, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much for being a supportive partner in your student’s education.

Sincerely,

Colleen Remar

cremar@cbsd.org

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

FILM TITLE(S): \_\_\_\_\_\_varied clips \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

🡺SELECT ONE:

* My signature indicates APPROVAL for my student to screen varied clips as explained above
* My signature indicates NO APPROVAL for my student to screen varied clips as explained above