

Film Studies Overview & Permission Slip

This course is designed to introduce you to the critical study of film. Through study of selected films and readings, lectures, class discussion, and written assignments, you will learn to recognize and analyze film language (editing, cinematography, sound, special effects, etc.) and will be introduced to some major concepts in film studies. By the end of the course you will have an understanding of the many ways films produce meaning and should be able to demonstrate your command of these basic skills to critically interpret those meanings through deep analysis and writing.



Since this is an introductory course and since I am well aware that certain types of movies are extremely popular, I assume that you have seen plenty of movies, but that you lack a conceptual understanding of cinema. In other words, I assume that your awareness of films far exceeds your vocabulary for describing them. Hence, I hope that you will regard this course as: 1) An opportunity to experience a broader range of movies than you are, perhaps used to seeing, and... 2) As an occasion to learn and practice a more analytical – precise and elaborated – language for talking and writing about film.

*Some of the films we will view and discuss in this class will contain graphic and controversial materials. **Movies that are rated R for Restricted WILL BE viewed, analyzed and discussed in this class. In order to participate in the viewing of these films you must have the permission slip on the back of this sheet signed by your parents and returned to me. If you find representations of sexuality, violence, politics, race, and/or other potentially controversial subjects objectionable, and you do not wish to view a particular rated R film you may speak with me. Understand that that you will not be excused from class work but will receive an alternative assignment that you will be responsible for completing.***

If you parents have any questions or concerns or would like clarification regarding which rated R movies will be shown in class and how those films are academically relevant they are welcome to call or email me at their convenience.

Phone #: (303) 653-3700

Email: alholder@adams14.org

Additional Rules for Intro to Film Studies

Due to the rigorous nature of this course and the unique artistic medium that we will be studying, certain rules will be observed while in this class. Strict adherence to these rules is expected and few warnings will be given.

1. **TALKING** - No talking will be permitted when a film is being shown. (This does not include gasps of terror or spontaneous laughter if the material calls for such reactions.) Excessive noise/talking will be warned. If it persists, the student or students will be asked to leave the class and adjustments will be made in his/her schedule.
2. **SITTING** - All students are required to stay in a desk while films are being shown. There is no reason to get out of your desk during class. You do not need to throw away trash in the middle of class, for instance. If you need something or have a request, please raise your hand and I will come around and assist you.
3. **SLEEPING** - Any student found sleeping during a film will be warned once. On the second offense, they will be asked to leave the class.

My class is not a movie theatre! If you are only interested in kicking back and relaxing with some popcorn and a soda and enjoying a good flick then the Cinemark down the street can accommodate you. If you wish to sit in my class and watch movies, you must treat the movies with the academic seriousness that they deserve. If you do not, notice will be taken and this course could be cancelled permanently. Therefore, as your instructor, I take these rules very seriously and they will be enforced!

Assessment Methods in the Course

1. Note-taking
2. Binder Checks
3. Class Discussions
4. Essays (SCR's & ECR's)
5. Vocabulary Quizzes
6. Project
7. Final

Film Rating System

The MPAA film rating system is a system used in the United States and instituted by the Motion Picture Association of America to rate a movie based on its content. It is one of various motion picture rating systems used to help patrons decide which movies may be appropriate for themselves and their children. The current MPAA movie ratings consist of:

NR – Not rated. Either the film was released before the MPAA film rating system was instituted in the U.S. or the film contains no material that could be offensive or concerning to audiences.

Rated G – General Audiences. All ages admitted.

Rated PG – Parental Guidance Suggested: Some material may not be suitable for children

Rated PG-13 – Parents Strongly Cautioned: Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Rated R – Restricted: Under 18 requires an accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Rated NC-17 – No one under the age of 18 admitted.

Have your parents fill out and sign the permission slip below and return to the instructor no later than

I have read the course requirements and I understand that some films with a rating of R for Restricted will be shown in the class and that these films may contain graphic or controversial materials. I hereby give my son/daughter _____ permission to view these films through a critical lens and in an academic setting with the guidance of the instructor.

By signing this document you are giving your child permission to watch rated R films in the *Intro to Films Studies* elective course.

(Signature)

(Date)