

AMERICAN FILM ARTS

Overview - American Film Arts is a critical thinking class in the visual arts. The class uses acclaimed movies as a visual literature to engage the student in a careful analysis of the artistic and technical aspects of the medium. Because the variety of films is so vast we have chosen to limit our viewing to only American films produced in the last 100 years and honored by the American Film Institute or the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Students will realize that movies are a combination of all the major art forms: Music, Literature, Dance/Movement, Theater, and of course the Visual Arts. Students will begin to understand the complex interrelationships between these disciplines and the people that are involved in making a film to produce a coherent visual artwork. We will observe and examine the craft of the artists involved in the the making of movies including those in the areas of writing, directing, production, acting, sound, music, sets, costumes, filming, and editing.

Students will practice using the language of film to analyze, evaluate, and describe the work of film artists both orally and in writing. Students will gain proficiency in analysis and critical thinking and be able to rationally support their ideas and opinions. Students will understand that a film that is acclaimed as a great artistic achievement may not be their favorite film; and it's OK! They will learn to separate what they like from what is good in film and accept them both as valuable parts of our history and culture.

Students will begin to see the many career opportunities in and related to the film industry from local television productions to hollywood blockbusters and everything in between.

Rationale - The screen is everywhere! And often when watching a screen we are interacting with a mix of images and sounds. From the simplest to the most complex; moving pictures are a part of our lives, and for many, movies have become their primary connection with literature. Moving pictures with sound are now more a part of our lives than ever before from the local weather forecast to music videos, video games, independent films, and major studio productions. It is a major American industry with millions of career opportunities from the arts to the sciences.

When most of us think of "ART" we think of paintings; we think of an art museum as a building with paintings on the walls and sculptures in the lobby, not as a darkened theater with cushy seats and popcorn . The American Film Arts class seeks to expand on students understanding of what an art is, and how artistic expression and brilliance can take many forms. Through this challenging class they will encounter an incredibly complex visual medium that can move, inspire, anger, provoke, humor, amaze, or entertain them as well as connect them with thousands of years of human history from every corner of the world.

Grades: 9-12

Duration: 1 Trimester - 1 Credit

Prerequisites: None

VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

Course Title: American Film Art

Course Overview

Grade Level: 9-12

Page 1 of 1

Standards & Benchmarks	Essential Questions and Learning Targets	Key Vocabulary and Concepts	Activities and Projects Evidence of Understanding	Resources
<p>ART.VA.III.HS.1 Analyze and describe the formal characteristics of a work of art or design. ART.VA.III.HS.2 Describe how organizational principles are used to elicit emotional responses. ART.VA.III.HS.3 Critically observe a work of art to evaluate and respond to the artist's intent using art vocabulary and terminology. ART.VA.III.HS.4 Evaluate the quality and effectiveness of one's artwork. ART.VA.III.HS.5 Recognize and understand the relationships between personal experiences and the development of artwork.</p> <p>ART.VA.IV.HS.1 Observe and describe artwork with respect to history and culture. ART.VA.IV.HS.2 Describe the functions and explore the meaning of specific art works within a culture, time, and place. ART.VA.IV.HS.3 Analyze the correlation between art, history, and culture throughout time. ART.VA.IV.HS.4 Use knowledge of art and design history to inform personal artwork.</p> <p>ART.VA.V.HS.2 Explore and understand the variety of art and design careers. ART.VA.V.HS.3 Explore and understand the application of the creative process throughout career pathways. ART.VA.V.HS.4 Identify commonalities, differences, and connections between the art disciplines. ART.VA.V.HS.6 Understand artistic knowledge as an important tool for successful living in the 21st century. ART.VA.V.HS.7 Analyze the impact of visual culture on society. ART.VA.V.HS.8 Identify the role visual arts play in enhancing civic responsibility and community.</p>	<p>Students will be able to recognize and describe the characteristics that demonstrate excellence in the various aspects of a film.</p> <p>Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the various jobs done by film makers.</p> <p>Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to use the language of the film medium.</p> <p>Students will be able to thoughtfully and critically analyze various aspects of a film as to its artist, historical, and cultural merit and support their analysis in writing.</p> <p>Students will understand the complexity involved to integrate the various artistic mediums involved into one effective visual and auditory experience.</p> <p>When viewing a film students will be able to recognize the effective artistic elements of the production as separate from their enjoyment of the film.</p> <p>Student will be able to demonstrate how films fit within our society and contribute to our community and civic responsibility.</p> <p>Students will be identify and articulate the excellence in cinematography whether or not they like the film.</p>	<p>Artists who collaborate to make a film such as: Director, Producer, Actors, Writer, Editor, Sound Editor's team, Production Designer's Team, Various Artists, Grip, Gaffer, and the Cinematographer's team.</p> <p>Aspects of film such as: Screenplay, Script, Story, Theme, Costume, Set, Conflict, Special Effects, Character Development, Flashbacks, Continuity, Scenes, Classic Films, Masterpieces, Acting, and Cinematographic Elements.</p> <p>A variety of techniques relating to: Focus, Camera Angles, and the Lighting used in film.</p>	<p>Students will primarily demonstrate their proficiency in the learning targets through writing. Each film watch will focus on one or two of the important aspects of film and require the students to carefully observe the aspects and provide a supported analysis of their observations.</p> <p>Students will be able to compare films and provide supported analysis of the films assets and liabilities.</p> <p>Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency and understanding of the people and processes involved in filmmaking.</p> <p>Students will be able to demonstrate orally and in writing the ability to accept that a film can be a great work of art even if they don't like it, and that they can like a film that is not a great work of art.</p>	<p>access to AFI and AMPAS data bases.</p> <p>DVD & Blu Ray video players</p> <p>video projector & screen</p> <p>sound system for video</p> <p>viewable copies of a wide variety of films.</p> <p>materials to focus and direct the student's responses.</p>