

Norwood Public Schools

Grade 12 Film Studies Curriculum Overview

Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):

This course focuses on the study of film as a unique and universal language; as a distinct literature with its own genres and storytelling traditions; and as a complex expression of American and world culture. As an English elective there is an emphasis on reading varied texts, essays and articles corresponding to film history and film criticism. There is also required writing in the areas of journal, essay, critical review, research and screenwriting composition. The course exposes students to the history and theory of film, and the studio system and Hollywood style that influenced cinema around the world. As visual literature, students explore the genre system and become familiar with the distinct literacy of film itself and media in general. As cinema is one of America's greatest industries, Film Studies is a practical course as it reveals the hundreds of components that go into making films and the vocations that relate to these components.

Learning Experiences:

Writing

Open response journals
Critical film reviews
Research paper
Formal Screenplay

Reading

Text: Informational
Critical: Inferential
Script: Imaginative
Essay: Informational & Inferential

Speaking, Viewing & Listening

Genre group presentation
Individual sequence presentation
Listening to sound

Content Outline: Film theory, film history, the studio system, Hollywood style, the star system, the genre system; post-Hollywood to today; documentary form, independent cinema, global cinema; film criticism, film research, screenwriting.

Resources Used: *American Cinema, American Culture* (John Belton); Final Draft .8; *Film Comment* magazine; Facets Resources (Chicago); American Film Institute Resources; various film reviews and current essays on cinema