



Film History

Course Description:

Students will discover the history of film and will create some films of their own. They will connect visual art to societal, cultural, and historical meaning through exploring their own artistic creations, as well as analyzing the impact of iconic actors, producers, and directors from the past. This course combines analysis and evaluation of films with the appreciation of the history of film, with practical assignments where students analyze different films for a variety of genres and produce their own creations.

Part 1: 5 credit hours | Part 2: 5 credit hours

Course Outline

National Core Arts Standards

California Arts Standards for Visual Arts

Nevada Academic Content Standards for Visual Arts

Common Core Standards

Film History, Part 1

Unit 1 – The Birth of Cinema/Silent Film

- 1.1 The Preconditions of Cinema
- 1.2 The Invention of Cinema
- 1.3 The Great Train Robbery
- 1.4 The Birth of a Nation
- 1.5 Charlie Chaplin

In this unit:

Students will recognize the preconditions necessary for the invention of cinema, understand the influence of patents worldwide on the development of motion pictures, identify major studios, directors and stars and discuss their influences on the industry as well as discuss the ramifications of industry standards.

National: VA:Cr3.1.Ia, VA:Cn11.1.IIa

California: Prof.MA:Re7, Acc.MA:Re8

Nevada: VA:Pr6.HS.1I, VA:Re7.HS.1I

Common Core: W.9-10.2, W.9-10.7, ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2, ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9

Unit 2 – The Introduction of Sound / The Musical

- 2.1 The Introduction of Sound
- 2.2 Editing and Dubbing
- 2.3 The Musical
- 2.4 Musicals of Your Choice

In this unit:

Students will identify the many ways that sound recording changed the nature of filmmaking, recognize usage of "Foley" sound editing and dubbing, understand the economic and social influences that led to the popularity of the musical, identify common elements found in musicals, discuss the changes that have occurred within the genre throughout the years, recognize some key studios, producers, directors and actors in that genre, and identify sub-genres such as backyard, backstage, concert, etc.

National: VA:Cr2.1.IIIa, VA:Cn10.1.Ia

California: Prof.MA:Cn10, Acc.MA:Pr5

Nevada: VA:Cr1.HS.2III, VA:Re8.HS.1II

Common Core: W.11-12.8, RL.11-12.7, ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9

Unit 3 – Censorship / The Comedy

- 3.1 The History of Censorship
- 3.2 The Comedy
- 3.3 Romantic Comedy
- 3.4 Comedies of Your Choice

In this unit:

Students will understand the effect of censorship on the film industry, identify the elements and themes of the comedy genre, discuss censorship in cinema from the "Hays Code" to modern political correctness, debate motion pictures responsibilities and rights regarding movie content, identify common elements found in comedies, recognize some key studios, producers, directors, and actors in that genre and identify sub-genres such as slapstick, screwball, parody, etc.

National: VA:Pr4.1.IIIa, VA:Pr6.1.IIIa

California: Acc.MA:Pr6, Adv.MA:Re7

Nevada: VA:Re9.HS.1II, VA:Pr4.HS.1II

Common Core: RI.11-12.7, SL.11-12.5, W.11-12.8, ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2, ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.9

Unit 4 – The Studio System / The Western

- 4.1 The Studio System
- 4.2 The Western
- 4.3 Westerns of Your Choice

In this unit:

Students will understand the effect of the studio system on the film industry, identify the elements and themes of the western genre, discuss the ramifications of the "Major" studios owning theater chains, identify the "Big Five" studios that made up the Hollywood Studio System, examine the effect of studio contracts on actors and directors, identify common elements found in westerns, recognize some key studios, producers, directors and actors in that genre as well as identify sub-genres such as serials, spaghetti, singing cowboy, etc.

National: VA:Re.7.1.Ia, VA:Re8.1.IIIa, VA:Cn10.1.IIa

California: Prof.MA:Cn10, Prof.MA:Cn11

Nevada: VA:Cr1.HS.2III, VA:Cr2.HS.III

Common Core: W.11-12.2, W.11-12.7, SL.11-12.3, ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.8

Unit 5 – Patriotism and Propaganda / The War Film

- 5.1 War Films
- 5.2 Propaganda
- 5.3 Hollywood's Relationship to the Military
- 5.4 War Film of Your Choice

In this unit:

Students will understand the effect of war on the film industry, identify the elements and themes of the combat genre, discuss the ramifications of McCarthyism and the propaganda vs. patriotism, examine the role of war films House Un-American Activities Committee, identify on recruitment and war bonds, identify common elements found in combat films, recognize some key studios, producers, directors and actors in that genre as well as identify sub-genres such as pro-war and anti-war, etc.

National: VA:Pr6.1.IIIa, VA:Re.7.2.IIIa, VA:Cn10.1.IIIa

California: Acc.MA:Cn11, Acc.MA:Re7

Nevada: VA:Re8.HS.1III, VA:Cn11.HS.1III
Common Core: RI.11-12.6, SL.11-12.5, ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7

Film History, Part 2

Unit 1 – Cinematography / Film Noir

- 1.1 What is Cinematography?
- 1.2 Camera Angles
- 1.3 Key Studios
- 1.4 Film Noirs To Watch

In this unit:

Students will understand the effect of cinematography on the film industry, identify the elements and themes of the film noir genre, understand the vocabulary of cinematography, explain the effects that different camera angles, movements, framing, etc. have on the audience, identify common elements found in film noir, recognize some key studios, directors and actors in that genre, and identify sub-genres such as Gangster, Crime, Sci-fi, etc.

National: VA:Re8.1.IIa, VA:Cn11.1.IIa

California: Acc.MA:Re9, Prof.MA:Cn11

Nevada: VA:Cr3.HS.1I, VA:Re8.HS.1I

Common Core: RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.7, W.11-12.2, W.11-12.8, ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.3

Unit 2 – Editing / The Suspense Film

- 2.1 Editing
- 2.2 Storyboarding
- 2.3 Alfred Hitchcock
- 2.4 The Suspense Film
- 2.5 Suspense Films to Watch

In this unit:

Students will understand the role of editing in storytelling, identify the elements and themes of the suspense genre, discuss the effect of editorial choices, discuss Hitchcock's influence, identify common elements found in suspense films, recognize some landmark films and directors in that genre as well as identify sub-genres such as political thrillers, psychological thrillers, etc.

National: VA:Cr1.2.IIIa, VA:Pr4.1.Ia

California: Prof.MA:Cr3, Adv.MA:Re8

Nevada: VA:Cr2.HS.1I, VA:Pr4.HS.1II

Common Core: RI.9-10.7, W.9-10.3, ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4, ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.5

Unit 3 – Directing / The Drama Film

- 3.1 The Director
- 3.2 Auteur Theory
- 3.3 Director's Influence
- 3.4 Elements of a Great Film
- 3.5 Dramas to Watch

In this unit:

Students will understand the role of the director, identify the elements and themes of the drama genre, discuss the validity of the auteur theory, discuss the evolution of the director's influence, identify common elements found in dramatic films as well as recognize some landmark films and directors in that genre.

National: VA:Cr2.3.IIIa, VA:Cn10.1.IIa

California: Acc.MA:Pr6, Acc.MA:Re8

Nevada: VA:Re8.HS.1II, VA:Cr3.HS.1III

Common Core: RI.11-12.1, RI.11-12.6, W.11-12.9, ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.4

Unit 4 – Bias in Cinema / The Documentary

- 4.1 Experimental and Documentary Films
- 4.2 Docudramas
- 4.3 Cinéma Vérité
- 4.4 Documentary Films to Watch

In this unit:

Students will understand the role of the documentary film on the film industry, identify the elements and themes of the documentary genre, discuss the effect of director bias and objectivity in the documentary, identify documentary vs. docudramas, identify common elements found in documentary films, recognize some landmark films and directors in that genre as well as identify sub-genres such as bio-pics, Cinéma vérité, propaganda, etc.

National: VA:Pr5.1.IIa, VA:Pr6.1.IIIa, VA:Cn11.1.Ia

California: Acc.MA:Re9, Acc.MA:Cn11

Nevada: VA:Cr2.HS.III, VA:Cn10.HS.1III

Common Core: RL.11-12.2, RI.11-12.5, SL.11-12.5, ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.6, ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9

Unit 5 – The Film School Generation / The Blockbuster

- 5.1 Film School
- 5.2 Focus Groups
- 5.3 Release Dates
- 5.4 The Blockbuster
- 5.5 Blockbuster to Watch

In this unit:

Students will understand the Hollywood takeover by the "Film School Generation," identify the elements and themes of the blockbuster genre, discuss the effect of focus groups, discuss the importance of the release dates, identify common elements found in blockbuster films as well as recognize some landmark films and directors in that genre.

National: VA:Re.7.2.IIa, VA:Re9.1.IIIa

California: Prof.MA:Re9, Acc.MA:Re7

Nevada: VA:Re9.HS.1III, VA:Cn11.HS.1III

Common Core: W.11-12.9, SL.11-12.2, SL.11-12.3, ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7, ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9