

Course Title

IAA Liberal Arts: Film Study



INNOVATIVE
ARTS ACADEMY

Course
Overview

This Film Study course introduces students to the history, language, and artistic elements of film while exploring how movies reflect culture, communicate meaning, and shape audience experiences. Throughout the course, students will analyze film genres, narrative structure, cinematography, mise-en-scène, acting, editing, and sound to develop critical viewing and media literacy skills. By examining films through both creative and technical perspectives, students will learn to evaluate how filmmakers use visual and audio techniques to tell stories and influence audiences.

Unit Title

Principles of Film

Time Frame

4.5 Weeks

Unit Title

Film Genres and Types of Film

Time Frame

4.5 Weeks

Unit Title

Elements of Narrative

Time Frame

4.5 Weeks

Unit Title

Mise-en-Scene

Time Frame

4.5 Weeks



MISE EN SCÈNE

FILM TECHNIQUE ANALYSIS

Analyze any scene or still from a film:

- ☐ Set
- ☐ Props
- ☐ Actors
- ☐ Lighting
- ☐ Composition
- ☐ Cinematography

Focus of the Unit

This unit explores various aspects of film history as well as an introduction to different film principles and the elements of film theory/criticism.

Focus of the Unit

The focus of this unit is to examine and define the three different types of film (narrative, documentary, and experimental) and the six major American genres; gangster, film noir, science fiction, horror, the western, the musical.

Focus of the Unit

This unit focuses on the narrative structure and how different elements of story composition. Students will review what makes up an omniscient and restricted narrative, review the difference between story and plot, and distinguish characters by their complexity, motivation, and their role in the narrative.

Focus of the Unit

The unit focuses on exploring the overall sense or feeling of a movie or the sum of everything the audience sees, hears, and experiences while viewing it. The unit will investigate how scenes and sequences are designed and composited to create specific feelings or vibes for the audience.

Course Title

Liberal Arts III: Sociology



INNOVATIVE
ARTS ACADEMY

Course
Overview

This Film Study course introduces students to the history, language, and artistic elements of film while exploring how movies reflect culture, communicate meaning, and shape audience experiences. Throughout the course, students will analyze film genres, narrative structure, cinematography, mise-en-scène, acting, editing, and sound to develop critical viewing and media literacy skills. By examining films through both creative and technical perspectives, students will learn to evaluate how filmmakers use visual and audio techniques to tell stories and influence audiences.

Unit Title

Cinematography

Time Frame

4.5 Weeks

Unit Title

Acting

Time Frame

4.5 Weeks

Unit Title

Editing

Time Frame

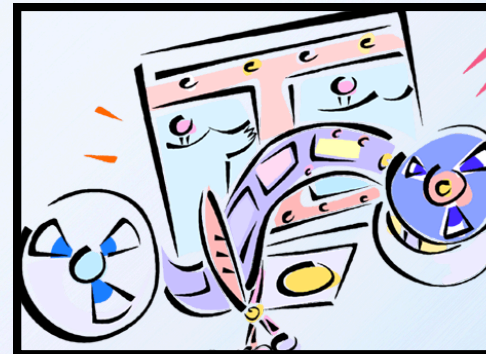
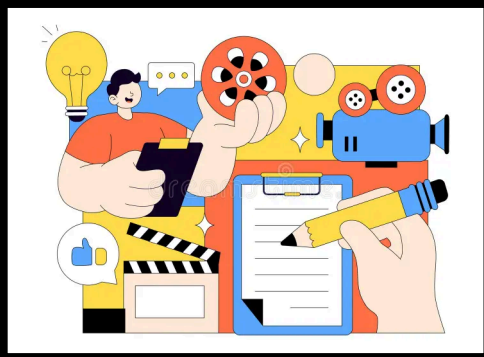
4.5 Weeks

Unit Title

Sound

Time Frame

4.5 Weeks



Focus of the Unit

This unit focuses on exploring how the film is shot and what makes up the capturing process of moving images on film or digital storage device. The unit will allow students to investigate the multiple facets of the visual portion of a film including shot type, film stock, lighting, and color.

Focus of the Unit

This unit will explore the world of acting starting in the studio era of films, showing how so much has changed fall the way to present day. Students will be examining different key actors to understand the relationship between the actors and the camera and how their performances impacts specific scenes or entire films.

Focus of the Unit

This unit focuses on creating an understanding of the immense impact editing has on a film sense of space and time. Students will explore the responsibilities and techniques editors need to master in order to edit motion features.

Focus of the Unit

The unit explores sound in film, diving into the auditory aspects of scenes. Students will understand the meaning the sound can convey when examining films as a whole or single scenes, the different sources of sound in films, and the four major types of film sound.

Unit Title**Principles of Film****Time Frame****4.5 Weeks**
INNOVATIVE
 ARTS ACADEMY
Essential Question(s)

1. How has technology changed and shaped the history of film in the 20th and 21st century?
2. How do films exploit patterns to create structure and convey meaning?

Focus of the Unit

This unit explores various aspects of film history as well as an introduction to different film principles and the elements of film theory/criticism.

Standards

2.1–Connecting film to history and culture
4.2–Deriving personal meaning from film

Learning Targets

I will be able to outline the major technological events that shaped the history of film.

Learning Targets

I will be able to differentiate between form and content in a movie and be able to explain how they're related.

Learning Targets

I will be able to explain how expectations shape our experience and interpretation of film form.

Learning Targets

I will be able to discuss elements of film theory and criticism.

**Resources**

Texts, Videos, Internet sites, Primary/Secondary Sources, Library of Congress, Films, EDynamics, Film: A Critical Introduction, Looking at Movies

Unit Title**Film Genres and Types of Films****Time Frame****4.5 Weeks****INNOVATIVE**
ARTS ACADEMY**Essential Question(s)**

1. What characteristics define each type of film genre?
2. How do people define different films into different genres and/or film types like narrative, documentary, and/or experimental?

Focus of the Unit

The focus of this unit is to examine and define the three different types of film (narrative, documentary, and experimental) and the six major American genres; gangster, film noir, science fiction, horror, the western, the musical.

Standards**1.2–Understanding film content****Learning Targets**

I will be able to explain how and why movies are classified.

Learning Targets

I will be able to understand what genre is and why it is important.

Learning Targets

I will be able to explain the most significant elements of each of the six major American genres.

Learning Targets

I will be able to define narrative, documentary, and experimental movies and explain how these types blend and overlap.

**Resources**

Texts, Videos, Internet sites, Primary/Secondary Sources, Library of Congress, Films, EDynamics, Film: A Critical Introduction, Looking at Movies

Unit Title	Elements of Narrative
Time Frame	4.5 Weeks



	Essential Question(s)
	1. How does the narrative structure function when examining the concepts of character goal and need, inciting incident, obstacles, crisis, and climax? 2. How does the relative meaning of narrative, narration, and narrator differ?

	Focus of the Unit
	This unit focuses on the narrative structure and how different elements of story composition. Students will review what makes up an omniscient and restricted narrative, review the difference between story and plot, and distinguish characters by their complexity, motivation, and their role in the narrative.

Standards	1.3 - Understanding a film’s narrative structure
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Learning Targets
I will be able to explain what the relative meaning of the terms narrative, narration, and narrator.

Learning Targets
I will be able to differentiate between the story and plot of the film.

Learning Targets
I will be able to recognize and understand the function of omniscient and restricted narration.

Learning Targets
I will be able to explain and understand the importance of the order (chronological or non chronological), significance, and the duration of plot events.



Resources	Texts, Videos, Internet sites, Primary/Secondary Sources, Library of Congress, Films, EDynamics, Film: A Critical Introduction, Looking at Movies
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Unit Title**Mise-en-Scene****Time Frame****4.5 Weeks**
INNOVATIVE
 ARTS ACADEMY
Essential Question(s)

1. What is the role of the production designer and the other personnel involved in designing a movie
2. How do design elements affect our sense of a movie's characters, narratives, and themes?

Focus of the Unit

The unit focuses on exploring the overall sense or feeling of a movie or the sum of everything the audience sees, hears, and experiences while viewing it. The unit will investigate how scenes and sequences are designed and composited to create specific feelings or vibes for the audience.

Standards**3.3—Analyzing a film's visual design****Learning Targets**

I will be able to define mise-en-scene overall and in terms of its constituent parts.

Learning Targets

I will be able to describe the major historical movements of film design.

Learning Targets

I will be able to describe the effects that the mise-en-scene has on the movie's characters, narrative, and themes.

Learning Targets

I will be able to describe the relationship between on-screen and offscreen space, and explain why most shots in a film rely on both.

MISE EN SCÈNE
FILM TECHNIQUE ANALYSIS

Analyze any scene or still from a film:

- ☐ Set
- ☐ Props
- ☐ Actors
- ☐ Lighting
- ☐ Composition
- ☐ Cinematography

**Resources**

Texts, Videos, Internet sites, Primary/Secondary Sources, Library of Congress, Films, EDynamics, Film: A Critical Introduction, Looking at Movies

Unit Title**Cinematography****Time Frame****2 Weeks**
INNOVATIVE
 ARTS ACADEMY
Essential Question(s)

1. How does film stock, lighting, and lenses affect the cinematographic properties of a shot?
2. How are special effects created and what role do they play in film?

Focus of the Unit

This unit focuses on exploring how the film is shot and what makes up the capturing process of moving images on film or digital storage device. The unit will allow students to investigate the multiple facets of the visual portion of a film including shot type, film stock, lighting, and color.

Standards**1.1–Developing a film vocabulary & 3.3–Analyzing a film’s visual design****Learning Targets**

I will be able to describe the difference between a shot, a setup, and a take.

Learning Targets

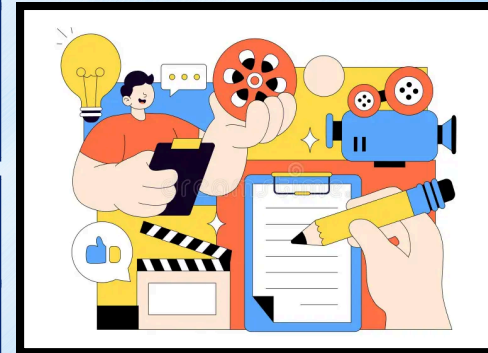
I will be able to explain the role that a director of photography plays in film production.

Learning Targets

I will be able to define the rule of thirds.

Learning Targets

I will be able to describe any shot in a movie by identifying; the proximity of the subject, the angle of the camera, the nature of camera movement, etc.

**Resources**
Texts, Videos, Internet sites, Primary/Secondary Sources, Library of Congress, icivics

Unit Title**Acting****Time Frame****2 Weeks**
INNOVATIVE
 ARTS ACADEMY
Essential Question(s)

1. How have movies changed when comparing today to the classical studio era?
2. How are naturalistic and nonnaturalistic movie acting different?

Focus of the Unit

This unit will explore the world of acting starting in the studio era of films, all the way to present day. Students will be examining different key actors to understand the relationship between the actors and the camera, different perspectives on acting, and how their performances impacts specific scenes or entire films.

Standards

1.2.1—Connecting film to history and culture & 3.2—Identifying creative and/or technical skills in the filmmaking process & 1.5—Analyzing elements of film composition

Learning Targets

I will be able to how the introduction of sound to films impacted acting

Learning Targets

I will be able to explain the relationship between actor and camera is important

Learning Targets

I will be able to define improvisational acting

Learning Targets

I will be able to explain the potential effects on acting of framing, composition, lighting, shot types, and shot lengths

**Resources**

Texts, Videos, Internet sites, Primary/Secondary Sources, Library of Congress, Films, EDynamics, Film: A Critical Introduction, Looking at Movies

Unit Title**Editing****Time Frame****2 Weeks**
INNOVATIVE
 ARTS ACADEMY
Essential Question(s)

1. Why is editing regarded as a language?
2. How does a film's editor affect the creative and technical aspects of a film?

Focus of the Unit

This unit focuses on creating an understanding of the immense impact editing has on a film sense of space and time. Students will explore the responsibilities and techniques editors need to master in order to edit motion features.

Standards**1.4–Identifying editing techniques****Learning Targets**

I will be able to understand and explain the relationship between the shot and cut.

Learning Targets

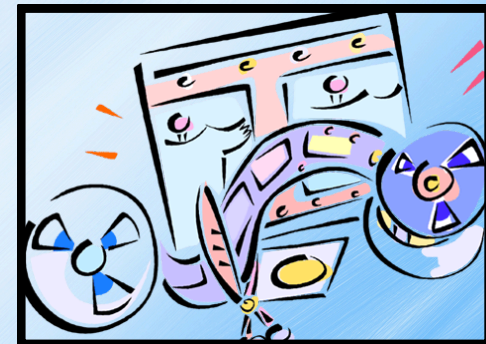
I will be able to describe the film's editors' creative and technical responsibilities.

Learning Targets

I will be able to explain the various ways that editing establishes spatial relationships between shots.

Learning Targets

I will be able to describe the ways editing manipulates temporal relationships.

**Resources**

Texts, Videos, Internet sites, Primary/Secondary Sources, Library of Congress, Films, EDynamics, Film: A Critical Introduction, Looking at Movies

Unit Title**Sound****Time Frame****4.5 Weeks**
INNOVATIVE
 ARTS ACADEMY
Essential Question(s)

1. How are the four major types of film sound (vocal, environmental, music, silence) similar and/or different?
2. How can sound call attention to both the spatial and temporal dimensions of a scene?

Focus of the Unit

The unit explores sound in film, diving into the auditory aspects of scenes. Students will understand the meaning the sound can convey when examining films as a whole or single scenes, the different sources of sound in films, and the four major types of film sound.

Standards

1.1–Developing a film vocabulary & 1.5–Analyzing elements of film composition

Learning Targets

I will be able to explain the assumptions influencing contemporary film design.

Learning Targets

I will be able to differentiate among sound recording, sound editing, and sound mixing.

Learning Targets

I will be able to understand and explain the perceptual characteristics of sound: pitch, loudness, and quality.

Learning Targets

I will be able to name and define the principal sources of film sound

**Resources**

Texts, Videos, Internet sites, Primary/Secondary Sources, Library of Congress, Films, EDynamics, Film: A Critical Introduction, Looking at Movies