

Small Learning Communities



THE FILM INSTITUTE

Summary: The Film & Television Institute is a small learning community bringing together teachers from three subject areas: English, Social Studies and Media. The Institute creates a unique three-period, interdisciplinary learning experience for select seniors, allowing them to examine, analyze, critique, conceptualize, write, produce and post-produce a variety of film and television programs. From technological and artistic elements, to social and historical influence, students comprehensively study cinema and television. Juniors who successfully complete their English I-III requirements are eligible to submit an application for acceptance into the Institute during senior year. What follows is a brief description of the course offerings.



ENGLISH: Film Writing and Criticism

Grade 12

5 Credits

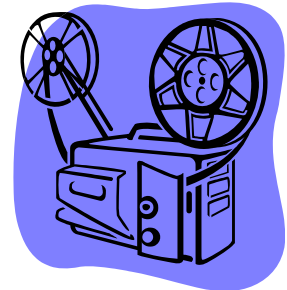
This course fulfills the English IV requirement for seniors. Students learn to formally analyze and critique television, film and media through a variety of writing modes. Students thus focus on formulating arguments based on social and artistic interpretations of these media. Students submit critiques to school and local newspapers, while also offering criticism for school and local community access television. Students work on developing their own screenplays by learning a variety of techniques and strategies. Through the media portion of the Institute, these screenplays are developed into short films. In the Spring, as students finish shooting, they will develop press releases, advertisements, and articles based on the projects.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Film & Television History

Grade 12

5 Credits

This senior elective focuses on the study of film and television history, particularly upon their influence upon history and social mores. Students analyze the reciprocal relationship between these media and society. Students explore the ways in which film and media “define” society, and vice versa. For example, films like *Dr. Strangelove* or *Godzilla* reflect some of America’s Cold War fears during the fifties and sixties. At the same time, a film like *Apocalypse Now* has influenced and reflected changing American viewpoints on war throughout the seventies. This curriculum might be organized by historical period, theme, or film genre.



MEDIA: Film Lab

Grade 12

5 Credits

In this elective course, students learn the technical aspects of filmmaking and television production. Students receive firsthand training on planning, direction, production and post-production. From special effects to sound editing, students study visual and aesthetic elements of these media in a workshop setting. This training culminates in the creation of short, student produced and directed films that will be viewed at an institute sponsored Oakcrest Film Festival.