

**Screenplay Writing/Cinema**



 **2018–2019**

 **Mr. Killam**

 **Room 818**

 **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to broaden students' appreciation of film as an essential humanities. The course will survey the history of cinema from its origins to its present state. Major developments and movements will be studied from the first attempts to reproduce and project movement, the silent period, the sound era, film noir, and technicolor. The process of film making will also be discussed with an emphasis on the screenplay as the backbone of the production.

**TEXTBOOKS**

*Understanding Movies–*Gianetti *Elements of Style for Screenwriters*

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

Folder or notebook with pockets, loose-leaf paper, pen or pencil–bring every day.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students will need to keep a notebook that will serve to record reactions and keep review sheets for each film. In addition to in class review sheets, two written film reviews will be required each quarter. One project per quarter, group or otherwise, will also be assigned.

**TESTS**

At least two tests will be given each quarter covering various periods, directors and terms.. These tests will also be **essay questions.**

**GRADING**

Film reviews, tests, projects, and presentations will all be weighted equally for the final average.

This course has a midterm and a final exam. This is a writing intensive course as a **large amount of the grade will be based on written work.**

**MAKE UP WORK**

Students who miss all or part of a film need to make arrangements to view the films before the test dates. Most of the titles can be found at local video stores or can be checked out from me. Make up tests can be taken on Thursday after school. Late assignments are charge **five** points a day with weekends counting as one day.

**Classroom Rules**

1. **Be on time.**  Students need to be in their assigned seats when the tardy bell rings. Enter the classroom in an orderly fashion. Class will start immediately after the tardy bell rings. I enforce the GBHS tardy policy.

2. **Have materials ready.** Students are expected to come to class every day with minimum essentials such as paper, writing utensils, and the appropriate books. Sharpen pencils before class begins. Get organized early because I will not allow trips to lockers after class begins.

3. **Raise your hand to be recognized. Do not talk out of turn.** When the teacher is talking or another student is asking a question or while a film is being shown, it is imperative that you do not talk. Talking while others have the floor is rude and will not be tolerated. Chances are, a question being asked by a fellow student will address some concerns you have. The films we watch are our texts. You will be tested on them–hold your questions until the end–probably, if you just watch the movie more closely , your question will be answered in time.

4. **Do only Screenplay Writing work in this class.** Doing other subjects is another form of being impolite. I want everyone on the same page, following along. Violators run the risk of having their work impounded until after school.

5. **Remain seated until the bell rings.**  Know that getting out of your seat is distracting to teachers and other students. Throw paper away after class; sharpen pencils before class. Don't start preparing to leave class until about the last minute, not the last five. Last period class will wait for the official dismissal.

6. **Respect other people, their property and school property.**  Things like defacing desks, throwing trash on the floor, taking another's book, pencil etc., or other types of horseplay will not be tolerated.

7.. **Take care of personal business on your own time, not class time.** Trips to Student Services, bathroom, locker should be taken care of before you get to class. Do not interrupt the entire class for the sake of something you could have done before with better planning.

**Consequences**

**First infraction:**  Oral reprimand with stern English teacher look.

**Second infraction:** I contact your parents and/or Thursday detention with me after school.

**Third infraction:** Automatic write-up.