

DP Film Studies HL/SL Syllabus

Signal Mountain Middle High School // Mr. Doebler//mrdoebler@gmail.com

Course Description

Film is both a powerful communication medium and an art form. The Diploma Programme film course aims to develop students' skills so that they become adept in both interpreting and making film texts.

Through the study and analysis of film texts and exercises in film-making, the Diploma Programme film course explores film history, theory and socio-economic background.

The course develops students' critical abilities, enabling them to appreciate the multiplicity of cultural and historical perspectives in film. To achieve an international understanding within the world of film, students are taught to consider film texts, theories and ideas from the points of view of different individuals, nations and cultures. (IB Film Studies Subject Guide)

Course Aims

The film course at SL and HL aims to develop in students the skills necessary to achieve creative and critical independence in their knowledge, experience and enjoyment of film.

The aims are to promote:

- an appreciation and understanding of film as a complex art form
- an ability to formulate stories and ideas in film terms
- the practical and technical skills of production
- critical evaluation of film productions by the student and by others
- a knowledge of film-making traditions in more than one country

Course Outline

Part 1: Textual analysis

The detailed study of film sequences.

Part 2: Film theory and history

The study of films and film-making traditions from more than one country

Part 3: Creative process—techniques and organization of production.

The development of creative, analytical and production skills within film-making.

(SL) IB Assessments (counted toward diploma or certificate)

External assessment: Independent study

Rationale, script and list of sources for a short documentary production of 8–10 pages on an aspect of film theory and/or film history, based on a study of a minimum of two films.

The chosen films must originate from more than one country.

Length of the rationale: no more than 100 words

Length of the script: 8–10 pages

(25 percent)

External: Presentation

An oral presentation of a detailed critical analysis of a continuous extract from a prescribed film. The extract must not be longer than 5 minutes.

Maximum length of presentation: 10 minutes

(25 percent)

Internal: Production portfolio

One completed film project with accompanying written documentation: no more than 1,200 words.

Length of the film project: 4–5 minutes (including titles)

Length of individual rationale for the film: no more than 100 words

Group work: The film project may be undertaken as a group project, but all accompanying documentation must be individually produced. Students cannot present the same edit of their film projects for internal assessment due to the different assessment requirements.

(50 percent)

(HL) IB Assessments (counted toward diploma or certificate)

External assessment: Independent study

Rationale, script and list of sources for a short documentary production of 12–15 pages on an aspect of film theory and/or film history, based on a study of a minimum of four films.

The chosen films must originate from more than one country.

Length of the rationale: no more than 100 words

Length of the script: 12–15 pages

(25 percent)

External: Presentation

An oral presentation of a detailed critical analysis of a continuous extract from a prescribed film. The extract must not be longer than 5 minutes.

Maximum length of presentation: 15 minutes

(25 percent)

Internal: Production portfolio

One completed film project with an associated trailer and written documentation encompassing and connecting both: no more than 1,750 words. (50 marks)

Length of the film project: 6–7 minutes (including titles)

Length of the trailer: 40–60 seconds

Length of individual rationale for the film: no more than 100 words; length of individual rationale for the trailer: no more than 100 words

Group work: The film project may be undertaken as a group project, but all accompanying documentation must be individually produced. Students cannot present the same edit of their film projects for internal assessment due to the different assessment requirements.

(50 percent)

Additional Coursework and Assessments:

Additional coursework and assessments will be assigned and administered by the instructor as necessary to equip and prepare students for their IB assessments. The additional coursework and assessments will be factored into the quarter/semester grades that are given for the course.

Film Content Statement:

SMMHS's mission is to provide a world-class education that successfully engages our students and fully prepares them to compete with students from all over the world. In DP Film Studies, our required film selections are carefully chosen for the richness and complexity of theme, cinematic technique, and recognized greatness within the film community. DP Film Studies students are challenged to respond to these films with reflection, discussion, and critical analysis. In a diverse community such as ours, we cannot ensure that your student will never encounter content that may conflict with his/her (or your) personal beliefs and values. Rest assured, however, that our DP courses, and our school faculty as a whole, are committed to fostering classroom environments where difficult content is addressed with the utmost maturity and professionalism. (If you have any question about the specific content of the required films, please consult IMDB.com for a content guide.)

List of Prescribed Films (over two years):

We will screen several of these films together in class, however, due to time constraints, some outside of class viewing will be required.

Silent Era

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari

Young Sherlock

Metropolis

Modern Times

The Passion of Joan of Arc

Tokyo Story

1940-1959

Bicycle Thieves

Citizen Kane
Touch of Evil
Rashomon
Rear Window
Seven Samurai
12 Angry Men

1960-1979

Breathless
Psycho
The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly
Bonnie and Clyde
The Godfather
Rocky

1980-1999

Raiders of the Lost Ark
Gandhi
The Last Emperor
Dances With Wolves
The Shawshank Redemption
Life is Beautiful
Saving Private Ryan
The Sixth Sense
The Matrix

2000-Present

Memento
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring
Infernal Affairs
Road to Perdition
Hugo
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
Million Dollar Baby
The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou
Pan's Labyrinth
No Country For Old Men
Breaking Bad (selected episodes)

The Social Network
Inception
Gravity
Nightcrawler

Documentary/Mockumentary

Harlan County U.S.A.
The House is Black
Into the Abyss
Real Life
Best in Show

Required Materials:

Have these with you every class:

- A film viewing journal (for viewing notes and daily discussion notes)
- At least a 4 GB USB drive
- A writing instrument that does not need sharpening
- Completed assignments

Homework Policies:

Homework assignments are intended to help students develop and practice required skills or prepare for classroom learning experiences at a pace set by the instructor. Students are expected to complete all assignment by their given due dates. Therefore late homework will be assessed with an automatic 10 point penalty (one letter grade). Also, homework that is deemed “significantly incomplete” will not be accepted for credit and will be counted late. No late homework assignment will be accepted after the grading quarter in which it was assigned has ended.

Attendance/Make-up Work:

Missing class is sometimes unavoidable. However, it is **required** that a student who misses class for any reason check the course website for any missed announcements, assignments, or materials. As per the SMMHS handbook, students have up to 5 days after an excused absence to turn in any missed assignments.

Managebac:

All the information for major assessments, along with course-related resources, will be posted in Managebac. Students are expected to have a working email address that they check several times a week so they can receive messages/updates from Mr. Doebler. Most major written assignments will be submitted through Managebac and checked (for plagiarism) by Turnitin.

Power School:

I update grades weekly in power school. There may be a delay in the posting of grades for major assessments (papers, projects, etc.). Most homework grades are posted within a week.