The experience of viewing, reflecting on, and then discussing films in a classroom setting can be one of the most enjoyable experiences you have in school. In addition to its entertainment and aesthetic value, film allows the expression and evaluation of social, cultural, moral, political and ideological viewpoints, offering you an opportunity to gain appreciation, and perspective on society, history, and the human experience.

**Course Objectives**

The purpose of this course is to help you learn to understand and appreciate the film medium. By the end of the semester, you should have:

- To appropriately use the basic terminology of film production and technique to analyze and discuss the film viewing experience.
- To understand the basic technical elements of film production including music and sound, editing (montage), composition (mise en scene), and camera movement and angle, and how they effect the film viewing experience.
- To understand the creative contributions to film, including screenwriting, directing, and performance, and their effect the film viewing experience.
- To gain the ability to think critically about the film, and to take into consideration other individuals’ responses to film.
- We will attempt to do all this through lectures, discussions, readings, writing, and, of course, film screenings.

**Units of Study**

**Unit #1: Weeks #1-2**
Film Appreciation: The whole film experience
- Perceiving the Film and Connecting with the film
- Influences on how we see and understand the film
- Language of film
- Basic film techniques

**Unit #2: Weeks #3-7**
Film and Society
- Value in film – emotional and cultural
- Basic film analysis

**Unit #3: Weeks #7-13**
Exploring Film Greatness
- Genre
- Award Winning
- Innovation
Participation, Skills Standards, and Assessment

- This is NOT a correspondence course – you must be an ACTIVE member of our classroom. Discussion and presentation of understanding is not only encouraged, but also required and graded.

- Since this is a screening, lecture and discussion class, you miss experiences that cannot be made up when you miss a session for any reason.

- Students are expected to attend ALL classes and to be here the entire time. But, since there are always exceptions to this rule, including illness, school activities, and appointments, so be prepared to complete film viewing, and assessment on a different film than the one the class is studying.

- When you are not present for any reason, you are absent. Should you miss class, you are responsible for missed work, information and any change in assignments. You must be able to view film afterschool with me or at your home.

- Students will write both formally and informally through the completion of a viewing journal and several well-developed compositions, which demonstrate a mastery of process writing. Journals, and some participation assignments will be checked using a 4 star system – 4 stars=A, 3 stars=B, 2 stars=C, 1 star=D.

- Weekly screenings are included in class time. We will start new films on Fridays, and finish on Monday or Tuesday. Wednesday will be for discussion and activity and Thursday is slated for assessment.

- We will all take the “Don’t Wreck it Pledge” where we swear NOT to ruin a movie for the rest of the class if we have already seen it.

- Students will use proper theater etiquette for film viewing in the mini-theater.

- Students will come with a positive attitude and an open mind, appreciating the opportunity to study film in class, and gain skills to better handle the media-driven world that surrounds us.