The Art of Film

Content Area: **Arts**
Course(s): **Cinema Studies**
Time Period: **Semester 1 & 2**
Length: **Two Weeks (and ongoing)**
Status: **Published**

Standards

VPA.1.1.12.D.CS2	Stimuli for the creation of artworks can come from many places, including other arts disciplines.
VPA.1.2.12.A.CS2	Access to the arts has a positive influence on the quality of an individual's lifelong learning, personal expression, and contributions to community and global citizenship.
VPA.1.3.12.C.2	Create and evaluate performances by citing evidence of specific physical choices, sustained vocal technique, and clearly motivated actions.
VPA.1.4.12.B.2	Evaluate how an artist's technical proficiency may affect the creation or presentation of a work of art, as well as how the context in which a work is performed or shown may impact perceptions of its significance/meaning.
VPA.1.4.12.B.3	Determine the role of art and art-making in a global society by analyzing the influence of technology on the visual, performing, and multimedia arts for consumers, creators, and performers around the world.
VPA.1.4.12.B.CS2	The cohesiveness of a work of art and its ability to communicate a theme or narrative can be directly affected by the artist's technical proficiency as well as by the manner and physical context in which it is performed or shown.
VPA.1.4.12.B.CS3	Art and art-making reflect and affect the role of technology in a global society.
TECH.8.1.12.A.CS1	Understand and use technology systems.
TECH.8.1.12.A.CS2	Select and use applications effectively and productively.
TECH.8.1.12.B.CS1	Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
TECH.8.1.12.B.CS2	Create original works as a means of personal or group expression.
TECH.8.1.12.C.CS1	Interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others by employing a variety of digital environments and media.
TECH.8.1.12.C.CS2	Communicate information and ideas to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
TECH.8.1.12.C.CS4	Contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems.

Enduring Understandings

1. Directing, cinematography, and editing as storytelling devices.

2. Script structure and character development (i.e. Three-Act Structure, Hero's Journey)

3. Stylized filmmaking in genres.

Essential Questions

1. How do cinematic elements create genre and storytelling?

2. Who are the most influential filmmakers, and what is their lasting legacy?

3. How have styles of acting evolved?

Knowledge and Skills

Students will be able to:

- Understand how various cinematic elements and techniques are used to create a style or genre of film, and how it contrasts from other genres in terms of pacing, tempo, suspense, and point of view.
- Identify how symbols and motifs can create deeper meaning in storytelling.
- Understand the level of planning, detail, and creativity that goes into the production of a film.
- Articulate how filmmaking components support a character's journey and/or development.
- Differentiate styles of acting (i.e. theater acting, Method acting, realism)
- Compare and contrast different directing and cinematography techniques.
- Investigate how editing, cuts, and shot length can affect the overall tone and story.
- Study how music and sound effects add to tone and emotion.

Resources

In addition to this unit focusing on comparing and contrasting film genres, it will examine the filmmaking "rules" to create a specific type of style. Below is a list of suggested genres and films to include in this unit to analyze.

1) Horror

Psycho (1960), dir. Alfred Hitchcock

- How POV shots affect storytelling and viewers' emotional attachment to characters.
- Suspense vs. horror.
- How music plays with expectations.
- Motifs, symbols, and repetition.
- "Twist" endings.
- The proto-slasher film, the first modern horror film.

Additional suggested films include but are not limited to::

· The Birds (1963), dir. Alfred Hitchcock

· Night of the Living Dead (1968), dir. George A. Romero

· Alien (1979), dir. Ridley Scott

· Misery (1990), dir. Rob Reiner

· The Sixth Sense (1999), dir. M. Night Shyamalan

· The Others (2001), dir. Alejandro Amenabar

· Get Out (2014), dir. Jordan Peele

2) The Blockbuster

Jurassic Park (1993), dir. Steven Spielberg

- Technical achievements in special effects and CGI that are still used today.
- Pre-production process and evolution.
- Spielberg's interest in creating the "modern-day King Kong" (exactly 60 years apart).
- Themes of evolution and chaos theory.

Additional suggested films include but are not limited to:

· Jaws (1975), dir. Steven Spielberg

· Rocky (1976), dir. John G. Avildsen

· Back to the Future (1985), dir. Robert Zemeckis

· Avatar (2009), dir. James Cameron

· Creed (2015), dir. Ryan Coogler

3) Noir and Neo-Noir

Sunset Boulevard (1950), dir. Billy Wilder

- Identify differences in acting styles.
- Examining atmospheric visuals (lighting, camera angles) enhancing noir aesthetic.
- Imagery that adds to the dark tone and sense of unease.
- Highlight themes such as the destructive nature of fame.

Additional suggested films include but are not limited to:

· The Hitch-Hiker (1953), dir. Ida Lupino

· The Night of the Hunter (1955), dir. Charles Laughton

· The Killing (1956), dir. Stanley Kubrick

· Fargo (1996), dir. Joel and Ethan Coen

· Momento (2000), dir. Christopher Nolan

· Oldboy (2003), dir. Park Chan-wook

4) Animation

Spirited Away (2001), dir. Hayao Miyazaki

- First non-English language animated film to win Oscar for Best Animated Feature
- Hand-drawn techniques that are different from the standard computer-animated works.
- Dark tone deviation from the typical lighter, positive tone for animation.
- Representations of traditional Japanese culture.

Additional suggested films include but are not limited to:

· Akira (1988), dir. Katshuhiro Otomo

· Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers (1993), dir. Nick Park

· Peter and the Wolf (2006), dir. Suzie Templeton

· WALL-E (2008), dir. Andrew Stanton

· Fantastic Mr. Fox (2009), dir. Wes Anderson

· Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (2018), dir. Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey, Rodney Rothman

5) Musical

West Side Story (1961), dir. Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise

- Use of color and imagery that reflect emotion and contrasts with characters.
- Movement and physical gestures.
- Cinematography and camera work to highlight tone and relationships.
- Racism, social and cultural issues in 1950s/1960s and today.

Additional suggested films include but are not limited to:

· Singin' in the Rain (1952), dir. Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly

· Cabaret (1972), dir. Bob Fosse

· The Wiz (1978), dir. Sidney Lumet

· Little Shop of Horrors (1986), dir. Frank Oz

· Chicago, (2002), dir. Rob Marshall

· Dreamgirls (2006), dir. Bill Condon

In the Heights (2021), dir. Jon M. Chu

· Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (2007), dir. Tim Burton

6) Comedy

Some Like It Hot (1959), dir. Billy Wilder

- Physical comedy reminiscent of silent film era.
- Roots in vaudevillian humor and entertainment.
- Evolution of cross-dressing as humor – how/if it continues to hold up.
- Demise of studio system, popularity of television, and Hays Code as contributing factors to success of the film.

Additional suggested films include but are not limited to:

· Young Frankenstein (1974), dir. Mel Brooks

· Tootsie (1982), dir. Sydney Pollack

· Clue (1985), dir. Jonathan Lynn

· Coming to America (1988), dir. John Landis

· Clueless (1995), dir. Amy Heckerling

· Best in Show (2000), dir. Christopher Guest

7) Sci-Fi

Blade Runner (1982), dir. Ridley Scott

- Themes of dystopia, dictatorship, and artificial intelligence vs. human.
- Special effects, CGI, homages to Noir.
- Function of Vangelis's score, echoing of visual components.

Additional suggested films include but are not limited to:

· Metropolis (1927), dir. Fritz Lang

· 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968), dir. Stanley Kubrick

· E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982), dir. Steven Spielberg

· Gravity (2013), dir. Alfonso Cuaron

· Dune (2021), dir. Denis Villeneuve

Transfer Goals

1. Critical Thinking: Students will assess film's integration of visual storytelling, language, and intention for meaning and complexity.

2. Students will be able to apply understanding of thematic cinematic techniques in the creation of an original short film.

Assessments

Assessments

Modifications

Modifications