



Loyola HIGH SCHOOL

SECONDARY V – MS. CRATON MEDIA PRODUCTION COURSE OUTLINE

RATIONALE

The focus of the course is media production – making short “films”. Students learn the basic elements and language of film in order to convey ideas, stories and meaning through images and sound. Various camera techniques, principles of lighting, shot composition, focus, sound recording, and sound and picture editing are practiced through hands-on exercises until the final projects of each term when students produce original short “films”.

The course is an excellent opportunity for individuals who might be interested in the idea of a career in film, for those who are interested in how films are made, and also for those who just enjoy films.

COURSE CONTENT

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF FILM

Students screen a variety of classic and historic films and learn how the language of film developed during the 20th century.

Students study:

- The birth of the film technology as cameras and projectors were invented
- The development of the language of film as filmmakers began to understand the impact of images
- The rise of the “silent film” industry throughout the world
- The fall of the “silent film” caused by the development of sound
- The rise and fall of the “studio system” in Hollywood
- The development of “star system”
- The rise and fall of independent producers in the 1970’s
- The impact of the rise and fall of other technologies such as radio and television, the VCR, cable, etc.

Students view a selection of historic and contemporary films and film excerpts that are outstanding examples of film techniques such as:

<i>A Trip to the Moon</i>	<i>The Great Train Robbery</i>	<i>City Lights</i>
<i>Wife VS Secretary</i>	<i>Stagecoach</i>	<i>Thelma and Louise</i>
<i>Risky Business</i>	<i>Say Anything</i>	<i>American Beauty</i>

Students will also view a selection of historic and contemporary films and film excerpts that deal with Hollywood film production and reveal how films are made such as:

<i>Sunset Boulevard</i>	<i>Get Shorty</i>	<i>The Player</i>
<i>Day for Night</i>		

HOW TO MAKE A FILM

Students learn how five basic shots and their placement make up the language of film and convey meaning and emotion.

Students explore how scripts are created, from original idea to storyboard, to screen.

Camera movement, basic lighting, basic editing techniques, and special “green screen” effects will be explored. Students work on films first without dialogue, and learn the basic techniques of recording and editing sound, including building and mixing sound effects and music tracks.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

As the focus of the course is production, there are **no written assignments**. All assignments are completed using “film” or making presentations. Students are expected to:

- Complete a variety of hands-on exercises working individually and in small groups,
- Participate in class discussions and complete “visual” research projects,
- Keep all handouts and a well-organized binder,
- Complete at least two major “hands-on” group projects.

COMPETENCIES

At the completion of the course, students will effectively:

- Appreciate the power of moving images to influence individuals and society;
- Use the language of film to communicate and learn;
- Produce media (moving images and sound) for personal and social reasons.

EVALUATION

Students are required to use care and precision in the filming process. All shots, movement, lighting and sound must be *motivated*. Filming sessions must be carefully planned and executed. Given contemporary equipment, one can *point and shoot*. Students must avoid this temptation!

Term One (20%), students are evaluated on:

- Class participation
- A variety of short “exercises” in sound and film production

Term Two (20%), students are evaluated on:

- Class participation
- Participation in group project
- Major “hands-on” Media Idol project

Term Three (60%), students are evaluated on:

Participation in group project
Major "hands-on" Media Idol project
Reflection presentation
Short film assignments

Students have access to the school's digital video equipment and computer editing facilities (but are encouraged to use their own equipment if possible). In order to use school's equipment, students must comply with all media lab rules and regulations. Misuse of equipment or failure to return equipment on time may result in fines.

NOTE: Major projects not handed at the beginning of class on the day they are due are docked 20%. Projects not handed in by the end of school the following day are not accepted and given a mark of zero. (All school days are counted, whether or not students have a media class and weekends are counted as one day.) Students are not exempt from the late penalty for any reason. Students who are ill or out of school on days major projects are due must make arrangements for delivery of the work. Students are encouraged to complete and hand in projects early.

SPECIAL NOTE: Students will work in small groups to produce the final film projects. It is important that students work cooperative and each member of the group must participate actively and conscientiously. Final projects will be evaluated for the competency and proficiency displayed, AND individual students will be evaluated on their level of participation within the group.

SPECIAL, SPECIAL NOTE: Filmmaking might look easy, but it is not. It requires a lot of planning, organization, effort and dedication. It takes a lot of time and hard work. The pay off is that if there is great planning, organization, effort, dedication and hard work, the effect is visible on the film....forever. Today we can see the impact of all the right decisions in the best films made, and the consequences of mediocre work as well.

FINAL SPECIAL NOTE!

Homework exercises must be brought to class in a format that can be screened using students devices and the equipment in the room.

All major MEDIA IDOL film projects must be handed in on a labeled DVD that can be screened on a DVD player.

