

**NORTH POINTE PREP  
FILM STUDIES  
COURSE SYLLABUS FALL 2021**

**REQUIRED READING:**

- Articles, web pages, and excerpts provided by the instructor

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** Students need to have these items by Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

- 1 packet of loose-leaf paper in a 3-ring binder that **DOES NOT** have to be specifically for Film Studies
- Blue or black pens
- Pencils
- Access to an electronic device, Google Classroom, Zoom, and a web browser.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Students will gain an understanding of the different genres of film through viewing, discussing, and analyzing them. They will also be able to distinguish different cultural aspects, past and present, which are portrayed through the film medium.

**COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS:**

Point Schools have identified 9 rules which all students are bound to uphold. The instructor shall enforce these rules in this classroom. Violations of these rules will be met with appropriate and fair consequences. These rules and consequences are:

- **Be on Time**  
Students are required to be in their seats and completing the “Do Now” task before the late bell rings. Parents will be notified if a student is tardy to class and the teacher reserves the right to assign In-School Suspension to tardy students.
- **Respect Yourself & Others**  
Pointe Schools is committed to having a disruption-free environment within the classroom. Students who speak out at inappropriate times or inappropriately shall be verbally warned for a 1<sup>st</sup> offense to be brought into compliance. A second offense for such disruptions will result in an e-mail to the student’s parents explaining the situation. The consequence for causing a disruption a third time will be removal from the classroom by administration.
- **Be Prepared**  
Students will come prepared for class with all required materials and assignments.  
**Assignments:** Many assignments will be Film Reviews and reaction papers. If you are absent for an entire screening or for part of a screening, you must still write a film review

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or reaction paper. You can write a film review or reaction paper for any film you wish under these circumstances. You may also attend tutoring to watch the parts of a film that were missed. This review or reaction paper must be made up within 2 days as if these were assigned exams. Late work is not accepted without prior notification to and an agreement reached with the instructor and will receive a grade of ZERO.

- **Do Your Best Work**

Students will do their own best work. Students who plagiarize or cheat will face the consequences laid out in the Student Handbook. Students' parents will be notified in cases of plagiarism and cheating. The teacher will know if a student steals information from Wikipedia, IMDB, or other sources on the internet. The teacher knows how to use Google.

- **Maintain an Environment for Learning**

The best way to maintain an environment conducive for learning is to keep the classroom distraction free. Therefore:

***Cell Phones, Non-Educational Items, and Other Electronic Devices are not to be used, heard, or seen during class time without administrative approval.*** These items will be held in students' backpacks during class time. Students violating this policy **THE FIRST TIME** will place their phones in the popcorn bin on the teacher's desk and the phones can be picked up after school in the 4A center. Students' parents will be notified. Student will also be assigned lunch detention to be served at the next available teacher's lunch.

- **Keep a Positive Attitude**

- **Take Responsibility**

- **Dress Appropriately**

Students found in violation of the Pointe Schools Dress Code will be referred immediately to Administration.

- **Use Your Time Wisely**

Unless confidentially noted as a symptom of a medical condition, sleeping in class is prohibited. The instructor reserves the right to wake students up from naps during class time using very loud noises or slightly nudging the student's desk.

*Class Participation:* Students are encouraged to question their instructor at any time. Students are also encouraged to share their opinions at appropriate times.

*Restroom Use:* Students will be to access the restroom five minutes after class has started until five minutes before class ends. Students must sign out and sign in on the class sign-in/sign-out sheet, but do not need a specific bathroom pass. However, Students should know that restrooms should be accessed prior to the start of class or after the end of the class during passing periods. If a student requests bathroom access excessively, the teacher reserves the right to contact parents via e-mail explaining the situation.

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## **TUTORING:**

The instructor will be available for tutoring before school (7:30am-7:55am), and after school (2:35pm-3:25pm). Appointments can be made by the student via email or in person but are not necessary.

## **SUGGESTED TUTORING and ACADEMIC PROBATION:**

If a student is earning a grade of F, he or she should attend tutoring from 2:35pm-3:30pm Mondays and Wednesdays until his or her grade improves to at least to a C. Before these tutoring sessions, students will consult with the teacher in the completion of an Individualized Academic Probation Plan. This plan is designed for students to commit to specific, problem-solving strategies to improve his or her grade to at least a C.

The school day, per North Pointe policy, starts at 7:15am and concludes at 3:30pm. In this respect, students should attend tutoring sessions if their grade falls into the F range.

## **EVALUATION AND GRADING:**

**Grading Philosophy:** Grading in this course will reflect a student's achievement relative to the assigned coursework (i.e.: tests, quizzes, homework, class work, participation, group projects, etc.)

**Course Grading:** Each student will receive a letter grade upon completion of this course. This grade will correlate with the effort and achievement of individual students on class assessments and assignments. All assessments and assignments will be recorded in our Online Academic Resource as "Total Points". All points, regardless of category (i.e.: tests/quizzes, Classwork, homework), will be weighted equally to the calculation of the course grade.

You may access our Online Academic Resource through our Student Grades link on northpointeprep.com.

### **Grading Scale:**

All assignments in Film Studies will be graded using the school-wide "points" system. Each assignment will be assigned a certain value of the total possible points.

**Semester Grades:** Per North Pointe Social Studies Department policy, semester grades will be weighted as follows:

40% (Quarter 1/3) + 40% (Quarter 2/4) + 20% (Semester Exam/Final Exam) = Final Grade

**Core Class Failure – 8th hour and Friday School:** High school students who fail a core semester class are required to take an 8th hour class (2:35-3:30 M-Th) the following semester.

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The student may also be assigned to Friday School (12:15-3:00). When a student fails a class, the teacher will complete an Individual Recovery Plan (IRP) noting the specific assignments to be completed by the student and/or the exam(s) the student must pass to prove competence of the standards. After the student completes the Individual Recovery Plan, they will no longer have to take the 8<sup>th</sup> hour class or Friday School. Students who fail to attend assigned 8th hour or Friday School are subject to disciplinary action and may have to repeat a grade.

Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions.

### **Instructor Contact Information:**

Parents and students are encouraged to contact the instructor with any questions via email.  
Email: [ksmith@pointeschools.org](mailto:ksmith@pointeschools.org)

### **Instructor Schedule:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Period	Teacher Prep	5 <sup>th</sup> Period	CPUSH
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	Film Studies	6 <sup>th</sup> Period	CPUSH
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	CPUSH	7 <sup>th</sup> Period	APUSH

### **COURSE LAYOUT:**

The course will begin with a brief overview of the history of cinema and a precursory look at film criticism and film theory. Film Studies and filmmaking vocabulary will be heavily explored. The course will then follow a genre-based approach. Films to be viewed include, but are not limited to:

Batman: The Animated Series	<i>Star Wars</i>	<i>La La Land</i>
<i>Modern Times</i>	<i>Firefly</i>	<i>Jaws</i>
<i>Bringing Up Baby</i>	<i>Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog</i>	<i>Futurama</i>
<i>Ready Player One</i>	<i>Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist</i>	<i>Black Panther</i>
<i>Rear Window</i>	<i>Super 8</i>	<i>Singing in the Rain</i>
<i>Vertigo</i>	<i>Double Indemnity</i>	<i>Guess Who's Coming to Dinner</i>
<i>Inception</i>	<i>Casablanca</i>	<i>Arrival</i>

**Film Studies Disclaimer:** Films will have various ratings used by the Motion Picture Association of America's film-rating system and ALL Films will be reviewed for educational purposes. Films will explore socio-cultural, artistic, political, and scientific endeavors. We will also view films as art, propaganda, communication, and analyze the effects of film on our society and culture in general.

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