

**TV/FILM STUDIES
COURSE SYLLABUS**

2009-2010

Instructor: David Weidner

Room: 312

Phone: (480)-882-3540 ext. 1730

E-Mail: dweidner@jocombs.k12.az.us

Description:

TV and Film Production is a comprehensive course designed to introduce students to the rigorous world of media production. Emphasis is placed on shooting footage and B-Roll, prepping studio, writing short screenplays and teleplays, editing, producing media for television or web, and ultimately exhibition of news segments and weekly announcements.

Organization:

Students will be working in a fast-paced deadline-oriented environment. There will be five major areas of focus, and each area will be given priority throughout the year.

- Film History and Appreciation – Students will learn about important moments in the last Century's history that led to what we now describe as the "world of cinema". The various genres of film will also be analyzed in how they build their own part in the overall history of filmmaking.
- Editing – Students will use raw footage of Hollywood films, and eventually of their own, and learn how to pace a montage, how to create emotional response in the audience through quick cuts, and how to add sound or music to a visual to create a mood.
- Writing – Students will improve their writing ability as they are asked to write quick blurbs for news segments, as well as documenting interviews, creating a three-act structure for short features, and eventually pitching a story idea with taglines, loglines, synopses, budget concerns, and proposals.
- Production of Short Media – Students will script, shoot, edit, and publish a variety of short projects that include Public Service Announcements, Music Videos, Commercials, Documentary Shorts, and Demonstrative Shorts, culminating in a short thematically-arranged production of their own choosing as a final project.
- Weekly Newscast – Starting in October, our class will have a rare privilege of producing a cutting-edge newscast for airing every week on Coyote TV. The entire school will be our audience, and we will have to rise to the challenge of providing them with interesting and informative material on a weekly basis.

Assessment and Evaluation:

1. Quizzes
2. Editing Exercises
3. Group Productions
4. Screenplays
5. Final Project
6. Feature Pre-Production Project
7. Newscast Participation
8. In-class assignments

Grading Policy:

Grades are determined each quarter by following a standard percentage breakdown as follows:

90-100%	A- to A+
80-89%	B- to B+
70-79%	C- to C+
60-69%	D- to D+
59% & Below	F

Classroom Behavioral Expectations:

1. Show respect to the teacher, your classmates, and yourself at all times
2. Participate in all discussions actively and in a civil manner
3. Take responsibility for turning in assignments on time
4. No eating, drinking, or chewing gum in class (bottled water is okay)
5. Excellent attendance is necessary for your academic success.
6. Electronic devices are not allowed in class. If I see it, I will confiscate it.
7. Behavior that affects the learning of other students will NOT be tolerated.

Make-up and Late Work:

Late work will be accepted for verified absences. Students will be given as many days to complete required missing work as days unattended. Students are responsible to communicate the need for the missing assignments.

Classroom Tardy Policy:

You must arrive to class on time or with an excused pass. You are expected to be in your seat before the bell rings. Students are responsible for having assigned homework, a notebook, a pen, and other classroom materials ready. Tardies will result in the following consequences:

- 1 tardy – Warning
- 2 tardies – Teacher-student conference after class and a call home
- 3 tardies – Lunch detention and a call home
- 4 tardies – Automatic referral to office and parent-teacher conference

Materials:

- A black/blue ink pen
- 8 ½ X 11 loose-leaf lined paper college rule

Rewards/Consequences:

Students who do their best to achieve academic success within my classroom, demonstrate good citizenship, honesty, responsibility, and/or respect will find themselves receiving a number of various rewards for their behavior or grades, (including special privileges, surprise rewards, positive comments on Character Always cards, and positive homebound messages)

Students that continuously disrupt the class, consistently show no effort in learning the material presented, or display aggressive insubordinate behavior, run the risk of receiving one or more of the following:

- Verbal warning
- Teacher Conference after class
- Challenge Chair assignment
- Lunch detention with teacher-assigned citizenship project
- Parent-Teacher conference
- Referral and/or possible suspension

Teacher's Notes:

A large part of the grade will center on participation in the Newscast, as well as other group projects. The crew of a movie or newscast is a team, and when one person does not perform to expectations, the final work suffers dramatically. It is expected of each student that they come to class prepared to do actual work. Hence, I will be treating the classroom more like a workroom, and the students will, in effect, become "employees" of the school.

Very Important Notice:

In order to provide the best footage for our show, I will expect students to be involved in a certain amount of extracurricular time. (Examples: filming a home game for a sports segment, documenting an after-school activity). I will ensure that students receive a fair share of these productions, and will always consider hardships in getting to and from school before assigning these segments to students. However, it is necessary to do some outside-class work, much like real reporters and film crew members do.

I am attaching an Assignment Matrix to this letter electronically, so parents have an opportunity to see the entire list of assigned work for the year. It is an excel spreadsheet that allows the parents the ability to monitor their child's progress and plug in the given grade for each assignment as we progress.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at the above number or email address. I welcome the opportunity to speak to every one of the parents of my students. Please assist me in moving your child's education forward this year.

By signing below, you are stating that you have read these rules in their entirety and understand (and will obey) the rules as outlined within this document. This is a binding contract for the school year 2009/2010.

Warmest regards,

Mr. David Weidner
TV/Film Production

Parent signature

Date

Student signature

Date