

FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

COURSE OUTLINE

EXPLORATORY REEL TO REEL

DATE: March 2007

SUBJECT AREA: Elective

PROPOSED GRADE LEVEL(s): 6-8

COURSE LENGTH: 1 Trimester

GRADING: A-F

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Film Studies is a course that allows students to explore the best of comedy in films from the 1920's to the 1960's. This course will enhance student knowledge regarding the film industry from silent films up to the era of television. The students will learn: the vocabulary of the film industry; the various jobs of producing, directing, editing and creating a film; the art of being a film critic, as well as stage production and filming techniques used. This class is designed to expose students to the fundamental components of stage performance, vocal expression, and improvisation as well. Students will also study the audience of each period of film in order to better understand the culture. During this twelve week course, they will develop skills that will enhance their overall comfort level with the history, production, editing, acting, and critiquing, of the various aspects of each film they see. The class will focus on the films culture and people of the era, for a better understanding of the industry and history of comedy in films.

GENERAL GOALS/PURPOSES:

Students will:

- Study film notes and vocabulary before viewing each film
- Research the events of the time period that the film was developed
- Learn the roles of each member of a film making team
- Practice critiquing each film based on criteria developed by the film industry
- Develop a working knowledge of the role of film talent
- Explore the possibility of changing parts of the film to adapt to today's society
- Be encouraged to practice audience etiquette
- Compare and contrast films from different and same time period
- Watch films with a critical eye and recognize mistakes made

STUDENT READING COMPONENT:

Students will:

- Read and understand class notes and vocabulary on each film
- Critique each film based on industry standards
- Evaluate performances of talent in the films
- Be required to read scripts and/or dialogues as pertaining to the films

STUDENT WRITING COMPONENT:

Students will:

- Write critiques on films for a class newsletter
- Apply grammar, vocabulary, and punctuation
- Write, edit, and create alternative scenes to films viewed
- Compare and contrast films from different and same time period

STUDENT ORAL COMPONENT:

Students will:

- Present critiques in front of the class
- Present research to class
- Work cooperatively in partners and groups, and present alternative scenes to films

DETAILED UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

The following resource books are used: Making Documentary Films and Reality Videos, Writing the Comedy Film, Make Them Laugh, High Comedy in American Movies, and Class and Humor from the 1920s to the Present

- Job descriptions of various positions associated with the making and production of a film in each time period.
- Present vocabulary and notes of each film and the era associated with each film.
- Establish vocabulary of film production.
- Create a knowledge base of the history and creation of film from the beginning.
- Practice storytelling: Students will write and share their stories with the class.
- Develop basic listening and watching techniques to recognize mistakes as well as positive attributes of each film.
- Explore the culture of each time period of the film presented.
- Learn how to properly critique a film.
- Practice audience etiquette: Students will understand the value of audience participation and reaction. Students will work on appropriate audience etiquette during class.

Comedians in Films – (All films are rated “G” or “approved” by the USA film ratings)

Films featuring the comics below from 1910’s – 1960’s:

- Charlie Chaplin
- Laurel and Hardy
- Marx Brothers
- W.C. Fields
- Three Stooges
- Lou Costello
- Jerry Lee Lewis
- Dick Van Dyke
- Art Carney
- Walter Matthau
- Jack Benny
- Bob Hope
- Peter Sellers

THIS COURSE WILL PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE CAHSEE AND/OR THE FCUSD EXIT EXAMS:

Reading, Writing, and Language Arts

LAB, IF REQUIRED:

None

SUBJECT AREA CONTENT STANDARDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

- (6) Standard 1.0 Students write and speak with a command of Standard English conventions appropriate to grade level.
- (6) Standard 1.7 Students will recognize effective rate, volume, pitch, and tone to sustain audience interest and attention.
- (6) Standard 3.5 Students will identify the speaker and recognize the difference between first and third person narration.
- (6) Standard 3.6 Students will identify and analyze features of themes conveyed through characters, actions, and images.
- (6) Standard 3.8 Students will critique the credibility of characterization and the degree to which a plot is contrived or realistic.
- (6-8) Standard 2.0 Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material.
- (8) Standard 3.4 Students will analyze the relevance of the setting to the mood, tone, and meaning of the content of the material.

DISTRICT ESLRs TO BE ADDRESSED:

Students will:

- **Self-Directed Learners:** who take initiative, participate in, and learn how to use assessments to improve performance.
- **Effective Communicators:** as they speak to a variety of sources throughout the year and work in small groups. They will understand what it is to be effective communicators, develop the necessary skills to enhance their ability to communicate effectively, and regularly practice those skills.
- **Quality Producers:** who read, write, and perform as they learn how to apply different skills throughout the class.
- **Constructive Thinkers:** who will be required to select the appropriate resources to gather information. They will then need to creatively express themselves and share what they have learned in short performances, speeches, and dialogues.
- **Collaborative Workers:** Through the study of group dynamics, students will learn how to implement what they have learned in a functional group and in group projects.
- **Responsible Citizens:** Through course work and units of study; students will develop a better understanding of themselves and the world around them.