



# Film Studies

## Fall 2019, Period 5 - Richardson Syllabus

In this class, we will be looking at film from an artistic humanities perspective. We will be reading about movies, watching and analyzing clips and films, and taking quizzes and exams on the material learned in class. We will also shoot and edit our own short videos.

If you miss class, you will be responsible to try to see the film in school, or on your own.

We will analyze films looking at the following categories:

**ARTISTIC** - acting, directing, music/sound, camera, special effects, writing

**HISTORIC** - How does the film reflect the years in which it was made? What were the important events in that historical period and how do they show up in the film?

**SOCIAL/CULTURAL** - What are the cultural values that the film shows us? What social lessons is the film trying to teach?

**POLITICAL** - Is this a conservative or liberal look at the world? What are the values that the film is espousing?

We will begin in the 1940s, and watch important excerpts and films from each decade up to the present day. Some films shown may be (this list is completely subject to change): *Double Indemnity*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *North by Northwest*, *A Patch of Blue*, *Jaws*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *Spirited Away*

You will complete a **final project** analyzing an Academy Award-nominated film in depth and presenting it to the class as either a **formal speech** or a **research paper**.

**You will be graded according to the school scale with 80% being summative (exams, final Project) and 20% being formative (quizzes, daily work).**

### Class Rules:

1. Watching and listening is crucial to this class, so you must stay awake. No sleeping will be tolerated. Anyone sleeping will be asked to wake up, and then to leave the room if they do not stay engaged with class.
2. Please stay in your seat during film viewings. Use the bathroom before films begin.
3. Be positive and kind. Be respectful to yourself and those around you.
4. Eat food or drink beverages responsibly or the privilege will be revoked.
5. Participate and have fun. It's an elective, and if we are all having a good time, it makes the class better!