

## *Norwood Public Schools*

# **Grade 12 Film Studies Curriculum Overview**

### **Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):**

This course focuses on the study of film as a unique and universal language; as a distinct literature with its own genres and storytelling traditions; and as a complex expression of American and world culture. As an English elective there is an emphasis on reading varied texts, essays and articles corresponding to film history and film criticism. There is also required writing in the areas of journal, essay, critical review, research and screenwriting composition. The course exposes students to the history and theory of film, and the studio system and Hollywood style that influenced cinema around the world. As visual literature, students explore the genre system and become familiar with the distinct literacy of film itself and media in general. As cinema is one of America's greatest industries, Film Studies is a practical course as it reveals the hundreds of components that go into making films and the vocations that relate to these components.

### **Learning Experiences:**

#### **Writing**

Open response journals  
Critical film reviews  
Research paper  
Formal Screenplay

#### **Reading**

Text: Informational  
Critical: Inferential  
Script: Imaginative  
Essay: Informational & Inferential

#### **Speaking, Viewing & Listening**

Genre group presentation  
Individual sequence presentation  
Listening to sound

**Content Outline:** Film theory, film history, the studio system, Hollywood style, the star system, the genre system; post-Hollywood to today; documentary form, independent cinema, global cinema; film criticism, film research, screenwriting.

**Resources Used:** *American Cinema, American Culture* (John Belton); Final Draft .8; *Film Comment* magazine; Facets Resources (Chicago); American Film Institute Resources; various film reviews and current essays on cinema