



# Maria Montessori Academy Junior High

## Film & Media Studies Syllabus

Mrs. Lisa

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**Course Description:** This is an introductory course, exposing students to the elements of film and other video media. Students will analyze real-life examples of film and media: what was created, how was it made, why was it made, and how effective is it? Students will also create their own original film works: music videos, news reports, and documentary films. Students will be doing all of the “behind the scenes” work (cinematography, editing, etc.). Performance is not required.

**Course Expectations:** Students are expected to come to class on-time with a positive attitude and a willingness to try new things. This is an exploratory class, which means it is all about experiencing new things and giving it your best effort. I don’t expect perfection, but I do expect your best effort. Since this is new experience, and very scary to many people, RESPECT is key in this classroom! Students are to be supportive and encouraging of each other. Peer feedback is meant to be encouraging and formative, suggesting helpful, realistic means of improvement. We celebrate each other’s successes and support each other through struggles.

**Textbooks and Materials:** Students will need a pen, pencil, and a composition book every day in class. Students are also required to have a NEW flash drive (USB drive) that they use only for this class. Composition books and flash drives may be kept in Mrs. Lisa’s class.

**\*Note:** Since the school has a limited number of digital cameras, it is recommended that students bring their own digital camera to school. Students will also need to bring the cord to connect the camera to a computer. Cameras need to be labeled with your full name, and an Electronic Device Waiver needs to be completed for the school records. Cell phones, iPods, and iPads will NOT be allowed for recording devices in class.

**\*Note:** We will be using the program MovieMaker to edit all of our film media in class. If students do not have a current version of MovieMaker on their home computers, it is recommended that they download this free software.

### Grading Plan:

A	93-100	C	73-79
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	64-66
B-	80-82	F	Below 64
C+	77-79		



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### **Course Policies:**

**Student Work:** Students must actively and positively participate and contribute to all class activities. Students are encouraged to work at their own pace, but to use time wisely. All work must be original work from the student. Plagiarism will result in a zero on that project.

**Portfolio:** Students are encouraged to journal about their experiences in Film. Students can burn a copy of their documentaries onto a CD or DVD to put into their portfolios.

**Group Activities:** Film requires collaboration. Students are required to participate in group activities. Students are encouraged to work with many different classmates. Find peaceful resolutions to any conflicts.

**Homework Expectations:** Students will be given time in class to record and edit their film projects. However, not all recording can be done in class. Students **MUST** meet with their groups outside of school to continue working on filming/recording their projects. Filming done outside of class can be brought to class either on the SD card or your flash drive.

**Extra Credit:** Attend an event from the Utah Film Center (website is: [www.utahfilmcenter.org](http://www.utahfilmcenter.org)). This could be any of their events, including the Tumbleweeds Film Festival, Sundance Kids, or any other film showings. Students need to turn in to the teacher proof of attendance (such as a ticket stub or program) and a ½ page reflection on the experience.

**Absences:** Because this class is so collaborative, absences not only hurt you, but they hurt your partners. If you know that you will be absent in advance, you will need to speak with the teacher and your group to create a plan to keep caught up. If there is no notice given for an absence, students are expected to communicate with the teacher and your group **IMMEDIATELY** upon your return to class to get caught up. It is suggested that you have the phone numbers of your group members so that you can call them if you miss class.

**Citizenship Grade:** The grace and courtesy you use toward your environment, classmates, and teachers will be factored into your citizenship grade.

**Class Rules:** Respect the environment and allow others to work. If the right to learn is being intruded upon, a verbal warning will be given so that the student is made aware of the behavior. If the behavior continues, the student will be asked to stay after class or after school in order to review the expectation. If more support is needed a letter will be sent home identifying the behavior in question, which will need to be signed by a parent and returned the next day. Unreturned letters will warrant a phone call home.



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### **Class Materials:**

All students will need the following: flash drive (USB drive), pen (any color), pencil, eraser, composition book

Donations of the following items are much appreciated: flash drives, SD cards

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**I have read and understand the rules for \_\_\_\_\_ class.**

**Parent/Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_**

Parent/Guardian's Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_