Year 11 Course Overview
Film 2025-26

Welcome to Year 11 Film. Students studying film under the school-developed curriculum have the opportunity to take the subject as a full-year or a single-semester course. The course allows students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills that prepare them for the IB diploma in a comprehensive programme that leads them from representational through to experimental film. Through the study of film style and genre, and continuity and discontinuity editing, students learn to place film within historical/cultural/social and economic context while continuing to develop their filmmaking skills, placing special focus on exploring the year's key focus: Editing.

The CIS Film School Developed Course Aims

This course is aimed at bridging the MYP Media Arts (Film) and Diploma Film courses. Students are provided with the opportunity to develop their skills as collaborative filmmakers while advancing their knowledge and understanding of individual production roles. The course aims to build an understanding of film and how this reflects and creates cultural context. Students are expected to express ideas with competence and confidence as they develop their perceptual and analytical skills.

Curriculum for Year 11

Semester One:

Unit 1: Film Noir
This unit builds on the importance of continuity editing through the classic genre of Film Noir. With its specific geographical and historical context, stylised film elements, distinctive narrative structure, themes and characteristics, Film Noir is the ideal playground for students to explore storytelling through the film elements. The Film Noir unit combines and elevates the screenwriting, cinematography, mise en scene, sound design and editing skills from earlier years. Students take responsibility for one discrete production role, developing a deep understanding of the collaborative production process.

Unit 2: The Myths That Make Us
This unit introduces students to the concept of continuity editing through fun, irreverent yet socially relevant stimuli. Continuity editing skills are advanced through an introduction to advanced track and dolly systems, production exercises and a portal chase film. The course develops a student's understanding of context through an introduction to the 1950s science fiction television series, *'The Twilight Zone'* and the contemporary television series, *'Black Mirror'*. Students begin to understand how everyday 'myths' can be busted to create a more enlightened world, how controversial ideas can be communicated through film and how to engage with these ideas as viewers and filmmakers.

Semester Two:

Unit 1: Methods of Montage
This unit introduces students to discontinuity editing as pioneered by Russian filmmakers and theorists of the 1920s. Through a study of Eisenstein's Methods of Montage in films such as the monumental classic 'Battleship Potemkin', students learn the power of montage and visual association. This learning is then applied to the contemporary arena of music videos. The study of music videos introduces students to new visual representation tools, non-linear storytelling and the opportunities for a filmmaker to create material that is at once artistic and commercially aware.

Unit 2: Experimental Film
The Year 11 film course culminates in this unit, which turns filmmaking as we know it on its head and asks us, "What is film?". Through the introduction of film theory, the study of experimental films, including *'Un Chien Andalou'* and *'Meshes of the Afternoon'*, students challenge themselves to redefine the cinematic experience as viewers and film practitioners. Students are encouraged to be autonomous, developing an area of interest that allows them to research and produce their own experimental film.

Year 11 Learning Skills

The following set of skills is designed to empower students to succeed in meeting the learning objectives of this subject and prepare them for future success in their academic programme.

- Self Management
- Communication
- Social Skills
- Thinking Skills
- Research

(Year 11 criteria)

Criterion A	**Investigating**	Maximum 8	25%
Criterion B	**Developing**	Maximum 8	25%
Criterion C	**Creating**	Maximum 8	25%
Criterion D	**Evaluating**	Maximum 8	25%

Academic Integrity

This course follows Chinese International School's Academic Integrity Policy, which can be found at this link and in the Student and Parent Handbook.

Academic Integrity Policy

Teachers

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