
Contemporary Film & Conversation: A Movie Theater Experience

Instructor: Mark Ring

- Contact:
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- Qualifications:
 - Michigan Teacher Certification
 - Certified in English, Film, and Drama

Grades: 6-12

Category: Humanities

Location: **Celebration Cinema**, Benton Harbor, Michigan

Meeting Schedule: **Alternate Tuesdays**, between **5:00–9:00 PM**

Course Duration: 6 Sessions/Weeks (**September 9, 2025 –November 18, 2025**)

Class Length: 2 hours and 40 minutes per session on average

Why does this class meet on alternate Tuesdays?

The class meets every other Tuesday to allow for more variety in the films we can watch.

Why is the time listed as 5:00-9:00 pm?

The class needs to be flexible with the movie showtimes we are given for the film we decide to watch for that week. *(Please see below for more information and examples.)*

Movie tickets can be expensive. What will this cost me?

There is no additional cost to attend. **Movie ticket fees will be fully covered by the class :)**
Participants are only responsible for any snacks or drinks they wish to purchase at the concession stand.

Course Description:

This 7-session experiential course is designed for film lovers who want to engage with contemporary cinema in a real-time, immersive way. Each session, we will view a PG or PG-13 rated film together and engage in thoughtful, casual discussions before and after the screening.

By focusing on different genres, themes, and styles, this course will help you develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for filmmaking. Whether you're a casual viewer or an aspiring filmmaker, the discussions will provide valuable insights and perspectives.

Weekly Format:

- 20 Minutes Before Showtime – **Pre-Film Gathering** (Lobby):
 - Overview of film, director, and actors
 - Discussion on key themes or techniques to watch for
- **Film Viewing** – Runtime varies:
 - Films are current PG/PG-13 theatrical releases
 - Showtimes vary
- 20 Minutes After Film – **Post-Film Discussion** (Lobby or nearby seating area):
 - Initial reactions and impressions
 - Group discussion on themes, characters, and cultural relevance
 - Optional Google Classroom correspondence for additional thoughts

Showtimes and film selections will be announced via email 3 days prior and also posted on our Google Classroom page.

Example Scenario: Movie Showtime: 6:00 PM & Film Runtime: 2 hours

- 5:40 PM – Pre-film discussion in the lobby
- 6:00 PM – Film begins
- 8:00 PM – Film ends
- 8:00–8:20 PM – Post-film discussion

Total class time: 2 hours and 40 minutes (some weeks could be a few minutes more or less).

Tentative Weekly Schedule:

Week 1 – September 9, 2025

Film: TBD

Week 2 – September 23, 2025

Film: TBD

Week 3 – October 7, 2025

Film: TBD

Week 4 – October 21, 2025

Film: TBD

Week 5 – November 4, 2025

Film: TBD

Week 6 – November 18, 2025

Film: TBD

What to Bring to Class:

- Yourself – Movie tickets are provided!
- Notebook or Phone for jotting down thoughts (optional)

- Money for snacks/drinks if desired (available for purchase at the concession stand)
 - An open mind and enthusiasm for discussion
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