



Course Syllabus

Course Title: Cinematic Journeys

School Year: 2024-2025

Semesters: 1 and 2

Grade Levels: 6, 7, 8

Course Day and Times: Fridays, 10:00 am - 11:00 am PST

Teacher Information

- **Name:** Keith Faulkner
- **Email:** keith.faulkner@brancheslearning.org
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

Class Materials - No materials need to be purchased for this class. However, students must be able to take notes and use them as a reference tool.

Course Description

Join us for a weekly film class with industry experts. Students will participate in discussions and activities as they:

- **Develop Critical Thinking Skills:** Broaden knowledge of global issues through engaging short films
- **Mitigate Cultural Bias and Racism:** Exposure to diverse perspectives helps challenge assumptions.
- **Cultivate Empathy and Compassion:** Exploring different narratives fosters deeper emotional connections.
- **Deepen Understanding of Global Issues:** Gain insights into historical and contemporary challenges.
- **Become Critical Consumers:** Learn to analyze media critically and appreciate diverse viewpoints.

This class is designed to broaden each student's understanding of real-world issues by using short films as the core of the curriculum. Topics may include environmental issues, human rights, poverty, stereotyping, and etc. Each class topic will be shared prior to meeting, and there will be some outside assignments/projects. Students must have the ability to take notes.

Course Units

1. Media Literacy
2. Film Literacy
3. Storytelling
4. Scene Analysis
5. Global Education

Course Expectations

Participation

- Be willing to participate in discussions and activities.
- Attend regularly and be on time.
- Honor the Branches' policies at the end of this syllabus.

Assignments and Projects

- Bring your unique perspective to projects.
- Complete all assignments on time and be open to feedback.

Respect and Collaboration

- Show respect to classmates and the teacher.
- Be willing to listen to the ideas and opinions of others.

Grading Scale

Middle School, Grades 6-8

- A = 90% -100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 0%-59%

Final grades are determined by the quality and completion of assignments, attendance, and participation.

Important Branches Learning Policy Information

Camera Policy

Branches Learning requires students to keep their cameras on during live classes unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Exceptions can be made in rare circumstances if the course teacher, supervising teacher (HST), and the parent all approve a camera waiver.

**Headset Policy**

Students attending live classes from a shared space must have a headset with a microphone to ensure the class is not disrupted by background noise.

Attendance Policy

Absences must be reported to the course instructor via email or sent to info@brancheslearning.org. Class recordings are available upon requests.

Attendance and participation are part of the final grade. Students who miss more than 40% of live classes may fail the course. Exceptions may be made if a pre-approved plan is in place.

Late Work

Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a lower grade unless pre-approved by the instructor.