Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to IB Film. IB Film is a two year course in which students will study the history of film, film theory, film production, and compare films from around the globe. Please keep this letter handy so it can be referenced as needed.

**COURSE OUTLINE/EXPECTATIONS:**
Over the course of the year, IB Film students will be exposed to the following areas of film.

**FILM HISTORY** – Students will study the history of film as well as how film developed and changed in different parts of the world due to historical events. Students will also gain an appreciation for various genres, and styles of film from the past 100 years.

**GLOBAL FILM** – Films from around the globe will be studied throughout the course. Students will examine how films from various countries influence and are influenced by various cultures, and how stories are adapted from culture to culture.

**FILM PRODUCTION** – Each student will work on an original film in a group consisting of four students. The students will learn editing, cinematography, sound design, direction, writing, and production.

**FILM LANGUAGE AND TERMINOLOGY** – Each IB film student must master the diverse catalogue of film language and terminology.

**IB ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:**
IB Film is offered at the Higher level ONLY.

**TEXTUAL ANALYSIS:** Study one extract, or approximately 5 minutes from a prescribed film and offer a detailed textual analysis of the extract within the context of the film as a whole.

**FILM THEORY AND HISTORY:** Study at least two films from more than one country (standard level), and four films from more than one country (higher level) and write a comparative documentary between 8-15 pages.

**CREATIVE PROCESS:** Create and produce an original film as part of a group. These criteria will be explained in great detail to students, and parents at a later date.

**IBDP AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

**AIMS FOR GROUP 6 THE ARTS:**
The aims of all subjects in group 6, the arts are to enable students to:

1. Enjoy lifelong engagement with the arts
2. Become informed, reflective and critical practitioners in the arts
3. Understand the dynamic and changing nature of the arts
4. Explore and value the diversity of the arts across time, place and cultures
5. Express ideas with confidence and competence
6. Develop perceptual and analytical skills.

**AIMS FOR IB FILM:**
The film course at Higher Level aims to develop in students the skills necessary to achieve creative and critical independence in their knowledge, experience and enjoyment of film. The aims are to promote:

• an appreciation and understanding of film as a complex art form
• an ability to formulate stories and ideas in film terms
• the practical and technical skills of production
• critical evaluation of film productions by the student and by others
• a knowledge of film-making traditions in more than one country.

Having followed the film course at Higher Level, students are expected to demonstrate:
1. an understanding of the variety of ways in which film creates meaning
2. an understanding and effective use of appropriate film language
3. originality and creativity in developing an idea through the various stages of film-making, from conception to finished production
4. technical skills and an appropriate use of available technology
5. the ability to draw together knowledge, skills, research and experience, and apply them analytically to evaluate film texts
6. a critical understanding of the historical, theoretical, sociocultural, economic and institutional contexts of film in more than one country
7. the ability to research, plan and organize working processes
8. the ability to reflect upon and evaluate film production processes and completed film texts.

Please note that the term “film texts” includes films and television programmes.

GRADING GUIDELINES:
The grade that you will receive on your report-card will be calculated using the following grading guidelines.

80% PAPERS:
IN CLASS / OUT OF CLASS:
Each film that is watched in class will be accompanied by a written assignment. These assignments will be detailed and follow a rubric. These assignments and in class writings will encompass both the practical (filmmaking) and theoretical (history, analysis, and theory).

OUT OF CLASS:
Students will watch one film from a chosen list every two weeks and write an accompanying paper. Each paper is 2-3 pages in length and follows a rubric.
Each paper will have a specific focus and are designed to prepare students for the IB Film assessments. Papers are the most important assessment used for film class. They give me an up-to-date report on what you know and what you need to know in class.

20% CLASS PARTICIPATION AND QUIZZES:
Quizzes and class participation will count for 20% of your grade. They will be given throughout the nine weeks.

GRADING SCALE: SEMESTER GRADES (Straight Letter Grade System)
90%-100% A 1st Nine Weeks 40%
80%-89% B 2nd Nine Weeks 40%
70%-79% C Midterm Project 20%
60%-69% D
Below 60% E

In the FIRST YEAR OF IB FILM (Junior Year):
The first IB assessment will be completed. The first film assessment (there are three total) is a research and writing project that synthesizes all that you have learned in your first year of film. You must compose a 12-16 page documentary script that compares at least 4 different films from at least two different cultures. This is the most difficult of the three assessments and we will spend the fourth nine weeks learning the documentary and research process in order to be successful for this project. Students should have access to a library card and
hopefully a Netflix account. The bulk of your forth nine weeks grade will revolve around this project. I have also started a IB Film Facebook page where I will share links of interest with parents and students, as well as post a library of essential film clips and announce upcoming events in regards to IB film and the IB Diploma Programme. I encourage all parents and students to like film Mr Ehman’s Film Class.

In the SECOND YEAR OF IB FILM (Senior Year):
The final two IB assessments will be completed. The second film assessment is to (in groups of four or less that the students select) to write, produce, direct, edit an original 7 minute film with a one minute trailer. This project is extremely time sensitive and will vary for each group. Your first and second nine weeks grade will be based on completion of your film and its components. Due to a large number of students this year, and my experience with past film classes I am asking that all students complete the PRODUCTION element of their film project before the end of November.
The third and final IB assessment will take place in January and February. Students will be assigned a film for ONE MONTH. At the end of this month students will discuss (this assessment will be recorded) a five minute clip from their film as it relates to the rest of their film. This discussion will require a full analysis, textual breakdown, director study, genre study, and film history study. The third nine weeks grade will be based on this assessment. Past films have included “Big Fish”, “The Graduate”, “The Godfather”, “Godzilla (1954)”, and “Moonrise Kingdom”.

EXTRA CREDIT DISCLAIMER:
There will be no opportunities for extra credit in IB Film. Students should make every effort to complete work and achieve the highest grade possible during the report period and not rely on extra credit to boost their grade. Additionally, there will be no opportunities to “make up” assignments that were completed poorly. It is important that students complete quality work the first time.

NECESSARY MATERIALS:
Notebook / 3Ring Binder:
Each student must have a notebook and 3-ring binder to hold all notes and handouts. Notes will be taken on a daily basis so the notebook and binder need to be brought to class every day with no exceptions.

DVD Player:
Students are required to watch many films at home throughout the course. All films are in DVD format, so a home DVD player and preferably a quiet, comfortable place to view them is necessary.

Books / Films:
Students will be working from several books during the course and are used as a class set. I have a rather extensive film book and DVD library that students will need to borrow from often. All materials MUST be returned in a prompt manner (within one week) so that other students may utilize them as well.

HOMEWORK POLICY:
Your homework will consist of papers due on a weekly basis. Assignments will be assigned on Monday and are due the following Monday when a new assignment will be issued. Any DVD’s that are issued are due with your assignment. All papers are to be typed, 12 font, double spaced, Times New Roman, with a cover sheet containing your name, and paper title.

LATE WORK / ATTENDANCE POLICY:
ATTENDANCE:
A good portion of film class consists of watching films as a group, discussing them, and completing the
accompanying assignment. If you are not present each and every day you will create a problem for yourself. All films shown in class will be available on pre-determined make up days after school. Students may also rent or buy the film to do the work on their own, but students are FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MISSED VIEWING DUE TO ABSENCE.

**LATE WORK:**
No Late work will be accepted. All materials that are late due to absence are due the day of your return to school.

**ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS:**
*All rules and expectations of the Obama Academy student handbook are to be followed at all times in IB Film.*

**MATURITY:**
In class we will be watching some films that may be out of your areas of interest and comfort. I expect you to not only pay attention to the films we are watching on a daily basis, but to expand your horizons and appreciate each film for what it is. A permission slip was sent home in regards to the films that we will be watching over the course of the year.

**CLASSROOM DISCUSSION:**
We will be discussing each film we watch in detail. The only way a discussion works in a large group is for each participant to raise their hand and wait their turn to speak. All voices in class have equal weight, so I expect you to be courteous and respectful of your classmates at all times.

**DO YOUR OWN WORK:**
I understand that there are countless websites that offer “Cliff’s Notes” style reviews and analysis of every movie ever made. When you turn in work it MUST BE YOUR OWN. If you are using a source YOU MUST CITE IT! Any work that is suspect and or found to be fraudulent will count as a 0 grade.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
I am always here to help your child. I want them to succeed in my class, and prepare themselves to be ready to sit for all IB assessments. Please read and discuss the information outlined in this letter with your child, sign below, and put contact information where applicable. Please feel free to contact me anytime with any questions you may have. I prefer to be reached by e-mail jehman1@pghboe.net. If you prefer to speak with me, my mobile # is 412-390-8313.

I very much look forward to getting to know you all.

Joe Ehman
IB Film Teacher

Approved: Ms. Aisha Robinson, Director