

Bedford High School
Foreign Language Department
Bárbara Barnett, Program Director

COURSE SYLLABUS 2012-2013

Course: **4154 French Cinema** (level 4)

4155 French Cinema (level 5)

Conducted in an immersion style, students will learn about the history and culture of French-speaking countries through the medium of film. Students will watch films of the French-speaking world set in North America, Africa, Asia and France. Movies viewed in class will provide a context in history and culture as well as language. In preparation for watching the films, students will study the historical/cultural information that provides the backdrop of the settings of the films. Lessons will require higher-level thinking skills such as expressing opinion, analyzing, predicting, and comparing and contrasting in the target language. Students will continue to master more sophisticated vocabulary and grammatical concepts and will be assigned a substantial amount of written work. Students will improve oral, aural, written, and reading proficiencies.

Prerequisites:

- For Level 4:**
- Successful completion of French IV with a grade of 70 or better; or
 - Successful completion of Francophone Identity and Culture (level 4) with a grade of 70 or better; and/or
 - Teacher recommendation.
- For Level 5:**
- Completion of Francophone Identity and Culture (level 5) with a grade of 70 or better; or
 - Completion of A.P French with a grade of 70 or better; and/or
 - Teacher recommendation.

I. Learning objectives (A statement of learning objectives is a statement of changes to take place in students.)

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Watch, understand, and interpret selections of French Cinema.
- Discuss and write about plot, characters, culture history and themes found in French cinema.
- To express complex opinions, ideas and personal feelings in oral and written form.
- Write a structured 5-paragraph essay in French supporting a thesis.
- Analyze scenes based on cinematographic technique and cultural context.
- Interpret authentic conversational French.

II. Learning Experiences (A learning experience is the interaction between the learner and the external conditions in the environment to which he/she can react.)

Upon completion of this course students will have participated in the following activities:

- Discuss personal opinions about themes in cinema.
- Share stories and experiences.
- Analyze film for cultural, historical and cinematographic themes
- Present and discuss analysis of various topics.
- Write compositions based on themes discussed in class.
- Debate issues pertinent to topics studied in texts.
- Listen and respond to authentic French conversation as seen in film.

III. Course Outline (A brief outline of the major topics and units which are central to this course: the sequence of topics and units may be altered by the teacher based on the needs of students):

1. History and Culture:
- The first world war and its cultural aftermath.
 - “Les trentes glorieuses” (the glorious thirties)
 - La nouvelle vague
 - The second world war

- Discrimination in Modern France
- Parisian culture
- Geography of Paris

2. Cinematography:
- Scene analysis
 - Film critics
 - Cinema technique
 - Subtitle creation/ critique

IV. Course Materials: The following list represents the major texts and/or resources used in French cinema. Teachers also use additional supplementary texts: articles, materials and curriculum documents which they have gathered or prepared themselves and which they believe enrich and extend student learning.

Films: *La femme nikita*, *Luc Besson 1991*

Mon oncle Jaques Tati 1958

La grande illusion

A bout de souffle Godard 1959 Les quatre cent coups Truffaut

Les Choristes

Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amelie Poulain, Jean-Pierre Jeunet 1999

La haine Matieu Kassovitz 1995

Texts: Alain J Singerman, *Aprentissage du cinéma français*

L'histoire de la France dès 1940

Tahar Ben Jelloun, *Le racisme expliqué à ma fille* editions seuil 1999

la guide lyéen contre la discrimination

Chahdortt Djavann, *Bas les voiles!* Editions Gallimard

Foreign Language Departmental Essential Questions

- Why is it important to be able to communicate in another language?
- Why is it important to understand and respect other cultures?
- Why is it important to understand the workings of a language?

