

NEW WAYS OF SEEING ENGLISH: FILM IN THE CLASSROOM

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Professor Wood chairs a university English Linguistics Department of over 700 students, all of whom he has taught successfully using movies. He is fluent in Japanese, a former chief editor for Sony Pictures ELT, national research officer for JALT and holds higher degrees in English from Manchester and Leicester Universities.

Film is already a hundred years old, but the spread and lowered cost of technology now makes movies a perfect TEFL content area at every level to develop student abilities beyond the eternal intermediate. Teachers often use films as time killers or as an excuse not to teach at all, or merely recycle conventional teaching techniques in the glossy covers of a new medium for no obvious reason. On the other hand, appropriate material development specifically attuned to film can increase both student motivation and language proficiency.

Combining a background of three decades in literature, film and EFL, the presenter has successfully developed English language teaching materials for major motion picture makers by applying the tools of literary analysis and communicative discourse. In this presentation, the speaker will outline easily adopted courses for foreign university students learning English from Freshman to Senior levels.