Copyright Basics for Film
PPR v. Home Viewing Licenses

Definitions

To perform a work means ... in the case of a motion picture or other audiovisual work, to show its images in any sequence or to make the sounds accompanying it audible.

Motion pictures are audiovisual works consisting of a series of related images which, when shown in succession, impart an impression of motion, together with accompanying sounds, if any.

A Public Performance License (or PPR) permits the screening of a motion picture for face-to-face teaching. This license also permits the screening of a copyrighted film “at a place open to the public...”

A Home Video License (or Home Use) permits a copyrighted film to be screened in full within a family group and an associated circle of friends within reason.

Title 17, USC, Copyrights, Section 101, Definitions

Can I:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can I</th>
<th>License Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screen a film in class for face-to-face instruction (per Limitations on Exclusive Rights: Exemption of certain performances and displays, section 110)</td>
<td>PPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen the film to a public gathering where no entrance fee is charged (per section 110)</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charge admission fees to a film screening in a public space</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take still images from the film</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitize short clips for face-to-face instruction in a classroom setting since I'm a faculty member whose primary academic area is in film or communication studies (per Digital Millennium Act, section 1201)</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitize any portion of a film since I'm a student (per section 1201)</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmit any portion of the film via the internet over a secured or unsecured network (i.e. digitize DVDs and stream for distance education or incorporate into Blackboard)</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display the film in distance education courses</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen the film in a family circle or small group of friends (per Exclusive rights in copyrighted works, section 106)</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relevant sections of the United States Copyright Law:

- Section 101, Definitions
- Section 106, Exclusive rights in copyrighted works
- Section 110, Limitations on exclusive rights: Exemption of certain performances and displays
- Section 1201, Digital Millennium Act

Useful Copyright Resources for Film

Copyright Info via Howard-Tilton Memorial Library
http://library.tulane.edu/services/publishing/copyright-info

ALA Office of Information Technology Policy – Exceptions for Instructors U.S. Copyright Law [evaluator]
http://librarycopyright.net/etool/

Columbia Copyright Advisory Office
http://copyright.columbia.edu/copyright/

United States Copyright Office
http://www.copyright.gov/

Haverford College Audio Visual Services
http://iits.haverford.edu/services/audio-visual/copyright-information/

Rulemaking on Exemptions from Prohibition on Circumvention of Technological Measures that Control Access to Copyrighted Works.
http://www.copyright.gov/1201/2006/

Motion Picture Association of America
http://www.mpaa.org/