Can I show a Film, Documentary, YouTube Clip, or Netflix in my class?

The Copyright Act permits showing an audiovisual work such as a DVD or video as long as the work is not an infringing copy or the person responsible for the showing has no reasonable grounds to believe it is an infringing copy.

Faculty can show audiovisual works in their classroom for educational purposes that is:

- purchased or rented from a retail store
- borrowed from the library
- a copy borrowed from a friend
- a YouTube video

Faculty cannot copy material watched at home and bring it into the classroom – this is a Copyright violation.

Showing movies from subscription services (i.e. Netflix) in the classroom is governed by the terms of the agreement between the subscriber and the subscription service. Currently, streaming Netflix in a public venue (whether a classroom, lecture hall, or anywhere their content will be available to the general public) is against their terms of agreement as this service for personal use only.

- **Netflix terms of service** are found at [https://help.netflix.com/legal/termsofuse](https://help.netflix.com/legal/termsofuse) - with an excerpt from the current terms below:
  
  4.2. The Netflix service and any content viewed through the service are for your personal and non-commercial use only and may not be shared with individuals beyond your household. During your Netflix membership we grant you a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable right to access the
Netflix service and view Netflix content. Except for the foregoing, no right, title or interest shall be transferred to you. You agree not to use the service for public performances.

- **Note:** There have been cases where instructors have successfully received permission to show a specific film by contacting the subscription company to receive specific viewing agreements.

  - **Spotify terms of service** are found at [https://www.spotify.com/ca-en/legal/end-user-agreement/](https://www.spotify.com/ca-en/legal/end-user-agreement/)
    - **NOTE:** Spotify does have a service called “**Spotify Business**”, which one can subscribe to for public sharing of Spotify content (according to the terms of that specific service). [https://www.soundtrackyourbrand.com/spotify-business](https://www.soundtrackyourbrand.com/spotify-business)

We are all familiar with copyright restrictions on printed content – and we need to be aware of copyright terms for all digital content that we consume (including photos, music, movies, TV Shows, etc.). When in doubt, the best thing is to read and understand the latest updates to a company’s terms of service found on their website. Like software agreements, the terms vary from company to company, and their terms are often updated periodically.