

# **Books on Film**

## **Course Syllabus**

Mrs. Koser (104)  
rkoser@northfork.k12.oh.us

### **Course Description:**

This one-semester course will analyze the art of adapting great works of literature into great works of film. We will examine the choices the authors, screenwriters, and directors have made in translating these books to screen.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To introduce students to the art of adaptation from page to screen.
2. To introduce basic filmmaking terms and topics.
3. To compare and contrast a variety of films stemming from a singular text.
4. To critique and discuss choices made by authors, screenwriters, directors, actors, etc.
5. To create an independent adaptation with classmates.

### **Texts and Required Supplies:**

Daily you will need a charged iPad, notebook paper, a binder or folder to stay organized, and an appropriate writing utensil. I will not accept work written in Sharpie or marker.

### **Grading Plan:**

Grades will be weighted as follows:

- 50% Tests and Projects
- 50% Daily classwork

In the second quarter, a large portion of your grade will be the final project.

### **Classroom Expectations:**

1. **Treat one another with respect and kindness.** Life can be tough. Do what you can to make it better, not worse.
2. **Come prepared.** Bring the supplies you need OR politely and discreetly ask a friend or the teacher for help.
3. **Participate.** This course demands both active reading and active viewing. Be sure to follow directions and involve yourself in the learning process.

### **Tardiness:**

You are expected to be in class, seated, and ready to begin class by the bell. The following is the school policy for tardiness:

**3rd tardy in a grading period:** a lunch detention

**4th tardy:** a Wednesday detention

**5th tardy:** receives a referral to the office for a Saturday School, In-School Suspension, or Suspension

**Absences:**

If you are absent for any reason, you will have the same number of days you are absent to make up the work. **It is YOUR responsibility to arrange for and complete the necessary work.** When you return, ask another student in your class, then me, what you missed. If you missed a test, you must make it up as soon as possible when you come back. All assignments that were due while you were absent will be due when you return. Please email me while you are absent if possible.

**Denial of Credit Policy for a Semester Course:**

Any student who accumulates more than eight (8) incidents receives a zero (0) for that class period, for that day, and every day in excess of eight (8) days. No make-up work will be given, including tests and quizzes.

**Late Work:**

Assignments that are turned in late will be worth less credit. Assignments that are excessively late (more than 2 weeks) may not be accepted at all. Late projects will result in phone calls home and a deduction of one letter grade per day late.

**Cheating:**

Cheating includes: plagiarism, copying someone else's work or allowing someone to copy your work. You should do work individually unless indicated otherwise by me. On the first offense, both parties receive a zero on the assignment, quiz, or test **AND** will be reported to the offices and disciplinary action will take place.

**Technology Use:**

There will be times when we will be using technology for academic purposes. If I see a cell phone or iPad in use when it isn't allowed, I will take the device until the end of the class period. Repeat offenders will have their devices given to the office for parent pickup.

**Dismissal:**

Show respect by participating in class at all times. This includes the end of class! Do not pack up early. We will be working until the bell unless I tell you otherwise.

## Books as Film Course Outline:

\*\*Subject to change

- **The Art of Adaptation**
  - *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky (*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* directed by Stephen Chbosky)
- **Theme**
  - *Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream* by H.G. Bissinger (*Friday Night Lights* directed by Peter Berg [film], *Friday Night Lights* developed by Peter Berg [television series])
- **Character**
  - *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte (we will view clips from several adaptations)
  - *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (we will view clips from several adaptations)
- **Setting**
  - *Atonement* by Ian McEwan (*Atonement* directed by Joe Wright)
- **Adapting Non-Fiction**
  - *12 Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup (*12 Years a Slave* directed by Steve McQueen)
  - "A Butler Well Served by This Election" by Wil Haygood (*The Butler* directed by Lee Daniels)
- **Adaptation and Popular Culture**
  - *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (we will view clips from several adaptations)
  - *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote (*In Cold Blood* directed by Richard Brooks, *Capote* directed by Bennett Miller)
- **Adapting Short Stories**
  - *This Is What It Means To Say Phoenix, Arizona* by Sherman Alexie (*Smoke Signals* directed by Chris Eyre)
  - *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption* by Stephen King (*The Shawshank Redemption* directed by Frank Darabont)
  - *The Body* by Stephen King (*Stand by Me* directed by Rob Reiner)
- **Your Turn to Adapt!**