

# **Books on Film**

## **Course Syllabus**

Ms. Vonck (104)

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@msvonck

### **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:**

The following have been or will be purchased for you through your course fees:

A bound collection of texts relevant to our studies

One book you will choose in the first month of class

Daily you will also need a charged iPad and notebook paper.

### **Grading Plan:**

Grades will vary, but *generally* the grades will work as follows:

Quizzes/Tests: 25%

In-Class Work: 25%

Short Papers: 20%

Homework: 10%

Journal Entries: 10%

In-Class Discussion: 10%

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

## **Classroom Expectations:**

### **Respect:**

You will respect me, your classmates, and yourself at all times and you have the right to expect the same in return. Any form of disrespect will not be tolerated and will be punished appropriately.

### **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:**

Policy on late work varies depending on the assignment. It is rare that I *stop* accepting an assignment. Generally, I will accept all assignments for partial credit.

### **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 they aren't allowed, I will take them until the end of class.

### **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!**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

My name is Aubry Vonck and I will be your child's Books as Film teacher this semester. I'm eager for the new school year to begin!

As indicated in the syllabus, students are asked to always arrive to class with a fully charged iPad notebook paper.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child, and feel that parent-teacher communication is vital to student success. The easiest way for me to keep in touch with you is through email. If you'd like to contact me, you can reach me at **avonck@uhs.laca.org**. I think it's very important that you feel comfortable contacting me, so please don't hesitate! If email is not an option, you may also call the main office at (740) 892-2855 and leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible. I would also like to ask below for some contact information in the event that I need to get in touch with you for any reason.

I look forward to working together to give your child the support he or she needs, while still helping him or her develop the autonomy and independence crucial to success in our changing world! I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Aubry Vonck  
avonck@uhs.laca.org

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Parent Name

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Student Name

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Parent Email

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Parent Phone Number