

# Syllabus     **Film and Literature (12th)**

Language Arts | Room 507 | 2024-2025

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## **Class Description**

Welcome to Film and Literature! The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the main elements of film and literature and how movies, books, and other forms of media are interpreted and understood by the audience. This class will also help you grow in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This class is for all 12<sup>th</sup> grade students working towards high school graduation.

## **Student Responsibilities**

1. **Respect** all students
2. **Respect** the classroom
3. **Respect** the teacher
4. Be **ready** for class
5. **Listen**, stay **focused**, and pay **attention**

## **Student Rights**

1. Feel **safe** in class
2. Feel **respected** in class
3. Ask for **help**

## **Materials**

**Bring** these items to class **every day**

- Pencils or pens
- Binder or folder
- Notebook
- **Planner – keep track of due dates and use as a bathroom pass.**
- Pencil pouch
- Dividers
- highlighters

## **Participation Expectations**

- Attend class
- Discuss class topics with the class, the teacher and each other.
- Respond to all communications
- Complete work in a timely manner

## **Grading and assessment**

- Mastery: Tests, quizzes, Final Essay Drafts and presentations (60%)
- Formative: Rough Essays Drafts, projects, and presentations (35%)
- POWER (5%)
- You can redo or retake all assignments and tests for full credit

Score	Percentage	Description
4	100	Advanced
3.5	95	Exceeds
3	85	Meets +
2.5	75	Meets
2	65	Minimally meets
1	55	Does not meet
0	0	Assignments not submitted. Mastery assignments not submitted earn 0%

## Absences, Late Work, and Retakes (This is an in person course and attendance is required)

- **You can turn in late work or make up tests** and quizzes missed because of absence anytime within the same quarter. **Tests and Quizzes may be retaken** one time within a week of the original test or quiz.
- **Because essays undergo a revision process**, they may not be resubmitted.
- **Work Samples scoring within one point of passing** may be revised and resubmitted.
- If you know you will need to miss a day, **check in with me ahead of time** so that I can give you access to work you'll miss or we can discuss making the work up.
- Assignments and materials will **sometimes** be available on the **Schoology page** for the class. Do your best to stay on track or catch up if you get behind.
- **Email me or talk to me** whenever you have a question or if you are unsure.
- **To make up a movie watched in class, please email me or talk to me one on one to schedule a viewing. I cannot post movies on Schoology or send them via email.**

## What will we learn?

We will focus on four key aspects of Film studies:

- 1) The language of stories -- how movies are made and the filmmaking techniques used to tell a visual story and how writers make similar moves
- 2) The history of moviemaking -- a look at the history and evolution of filmmaking from the early days of silent films to the modern day big-budget blockbuster. This will include a study of various film genres.
- 3) Film and Literary theory -- how film and literature intersect with cultural, political and social aspects of society. How movies are interpreted, understood by the audience and the impact they have on our culture.

- 4) How to read, analyze and write about a text or movie as described in the Oregon State Content Standard for Language Arts.
- 5) Coming of Age and the Emergence of the Individual: how films and literature have explored the emerging morality of the individual in the context of the family, the peer group, as well as the society as well as within ones' self.

## Writing

**Formal Writing – Formal writing is structured writing for a purpose. It's learning to put your ideas in a certain form.**

We will typically write a persuasive essay, literary analysis essay, narrative essay, poems and practice **essay revision**.

- Research Assignment and Presentation: Students research a director or genre of their choice, then present this to the class.
- Various short writing pieces
- Write a comparative analysis essay.
- Argument and Research Presentation
- Personal Narrative Essay

**Informal Writing – Informal writing is expressing your ideas without trying to fit it into any particular form.**

- It's a free write.
- This kind of writing can be a good brainstorm technique.
- Quick writes, journals, reflective writing, brainstorming, writing to help yourself understand your thoughts or something we read.

## Reading

Movies, clips of movies, two novels and a variety of short stories (fiction), a variety of articles about movies and literature (nonfiction) and possibly some podcasts.

## Your Film-Going Behavior

Film viewing in class is a focused effort for us. Many people are used to multi-tasking while at the movie theater – talking to friends, eating, texting etc. During this course, I will expect students to be actively engaged with the film they are watching, taking notes, and analyzing what it is they are seeing. The point of the class is not just to entertain, it is to understand and analyze. We will work together to build an *understanding* of visual information and how to understand movies, but you will also analyze advertisements, news, political speeches, and many other forms of visual information, to become thoughtful readers.

## What it means to be a RAIDER

All raiders are...

### **P**repared and punctual

Raiders come to class on time and with all required materials.

### **O**rganized

Raiders maintain a binder and planner.

### **W**riters

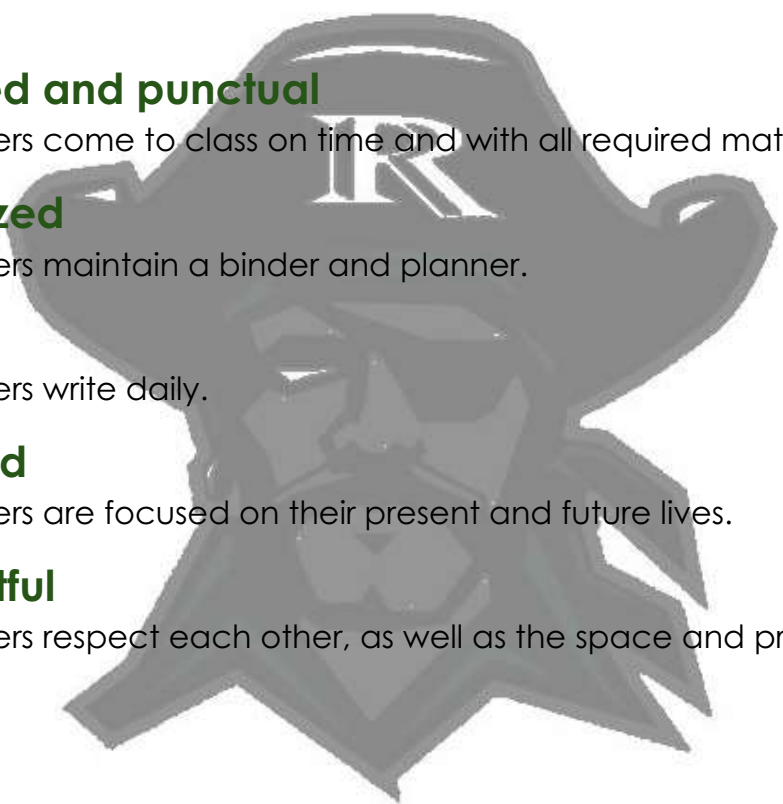
Raiders write daily.

### **E**ngaged

Raiders are focused on their present and future lives.

### **R**espectful

Raiders respect each other, as well as the space and property they occupy.



**Read this with your parents, guardian, or  
whomever you live with.**

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_