

Montclair High School

Course Syllabus

Department: English

Course: Contemporary American Literature II (Film & Literature)

Level: Honors

Credits: 2.5

Course Description:

Contemporary Literature II (Film & Literature) offers juniors and seniors the opportunity to study film and its relationship to literature. Students will learn how to recognize, analyze, and evaluate the literary dynamic and cinematic aspects of film. They will respond, both orally and in writing, to the filmmaking concepts and literary themes taught in class. In addition, students will be responsible for writing film reviews, comparing and contrasting the works of various directors, researching critical essays, and understanding the concept of genre and its application to the study of film.

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.1-10; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1-10; CCSS.ELA-W.11-12.1-10; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1-10; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.1-6

Anchor Text(s):

N/A

Supplementary Materials:

Poetry, short stories, essays, news accounts, editorials, and other appropriate non-fiction and literary works; Reading in the Dark: Using Film as a Tool in the English Classroom, John Golden; Reel Conversations, Reading Films with Young Adults, A. Teasley, A. Wilder.

Suggested pairings, but not limited to: Rear Window/It Had to be Murder by Cornell Woolrich; The Godfather/The Godfather by Mario Puzo; West Side Story/Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare; Dead Poets Society/Classic poems (Frost, Herrick, Whitman, Shakespeare, Lord Byron, Tennyson); Chocolat/Chocolat by Joanne Harris.

Units of Study:

Film genres to be studied may be chosen from, but not limited to, the following: Bildungsroman, Film Noir, Gangster, Musical, Epic, Italian Neo-Realism, Horror, Science Fiction, Romantic Comedy, Screwball Comedy, Documentary, Docudrama, Mystery/Thriller/Detective, Western

Themes to be studied may include, but not limited to: Coming of Age, Equality, Families, Belonging, Relationships, Change, Dreams and Conquests, Love and Romance, Self-determination, and Power and Leadership

Proficiencies:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Understand the importance of critical viewing and listening.
- Clearly and expressively organize, prepare and present a spoken presentation.
- Share ideas, examples and insights in collaborative conversations and discussions.
- Demonstrate and recognize that reading and viewing has many purposes.
- Recognize and understand the language of cinema.
- Use appropriate methods of analysis, interpretation and evaluation to respond to printed and non-print media.
- Use research skills to access, interpret and apply information from a variety of print and non-print sources.
- Compose a variety of written responses for different purposes and audiences.

Evaluation & Assessment:

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| • Essays, projects and tests | 45% |
| • Classwork, quizzes, low stakes writing | 45% |
| • Homework | 10% |

Student learning incorporates a variety of methods, strategies, and skills. Therefore, in an attempt to evaluate student achievement accurately and equitably, various methods of alternative assessment may be employed in the grading of students, including:

1. Tests are an assessment of cumulative knowledge and understanding of a unit of study and may include the following: multiple-choice, definitions, fill-ins, short answers, character and line recognition, and essay questions.
2. Quizzes are evaluations of short-term knowledge and understanding of homework assignments and class lessons that may be announced or unannounced and may include the following: multiple, fill-ins, short answers, terms, and definitions.
3. Homework enables student to exercise and reinforce their understanding and knowledge of the contents and skills taught in a class: readings, essays, definitions, research, projects, revisions, editing, and journal responses. In some cases, a long-term assignment may be given; students must plan their time accordingly.
4. Class Participation is an integral part of the learning process where students demonstrate their on-going understanding of content and concepts taught. It is both a learning and evaluative tool that is a requirement of the course. Participation may include class discussion, engagement, cooperative group work, presentations, and notebook review.
5. Papers and Projects will be assigned as both instructional tools and as an assessment instrument: group and individual presentations, formal writing assignments, portfolios, letters, short stories, class anthologies, editorials, newspapers, scripts, skits, interviews, debates, artwork, cartoons, photo essays, maps, and games. Papers and projects will generally have the weight of a test grade unless otherwise indicated.