

Literature & Film (reilly.ryan@nebo.edu, 801-798-4052)

Disclosure Document: Policies and Procedures

We live in a world flooded with film and other media; rather than view it mindlessly or avoid it altogether, it is important to make smart decisions in how we consume it and how we interpret it. In this Literature & Film class, students will learn how to approach a complex film text to get the most out of it. This will involve “reading” it similarly to how one reads a novel, short story, or other written text while also taking into account characteristics unique to film. As a means to further understand the filmmaking process, students will also create storyboards, write screenplays, and make their own films.

A typical week in Literature & Film

Each week we will examine how a principle/theory works in a specific film. For example, we will study genre when we watch *Gremlins*, *The Blob*, etc. I will spend the majority of one class period introducing the concept, and the rest of the week we will spend most of our time watching the movie. Almost every day we have short writing assignments to go along with our film screenings.

Movie List

The films I have chosen for us to view in this class adhere to Nebo School District’s ratings policies. If you still have concerns about any of them after looking at the list, let me know, and I can either find a different movie or come up with an alternative assignment for your child.

- Nacho Libre* (PG, 2006)
- Rear Window* (PG, 1954)
- The Karate Kid* (PG, 1984)
- Rocky III* (PG, 1982)
- The Sandlot* (PG, 1993)
- Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (Not Rated, 1956)
- Episodes from *The Twilight Zone* (1959-1964)
- Gremlins* (PG, 1984)
- The Blob* (Not Rated, 1958)
- The House with a Clock in Its Walls* (PG, 2018)
- Episodes from *The Mandalorian* (2019-)
- The Magnificent Seven* (Not Rated, 1960)
- E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* (PG, 1982)
- The BFG* (PG, 2016)
- Napoleon Dynamite* (PG, 2004)
- Spellbound* (G, 2002)
- The *Up* Series (Not Rated, 1964-2019)
- The Price of Gold* (G, 2014)
- Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* (PG, 2018)
- The Elephant Man* (PG, 1980)
- The Straight Story* (G, 1999)

Aside from watching these films in their entirety, we will watch clips from many other movies and TV shows.

Grading

Grades are weighted as follows:

- 50% Class Assignments (including Screening Journals)
- 50% Projects (Storyboard, Screenplay, Film Project, etc.)

Class Assignments/Homework

Students will earn the majority of their *Class Assignment* points in screening journals—they will answer questions and take notes in complete sentences for full points. From time to time, I will have them perform an analysis of a movie they view outside of class for homework.

Projects

Over the course of the semester, each student will write a screenplay and create a storyboard and film. At the end of the semester, they will go back to one of these projects and add more extensively to it. During the last few weeks of class, they will present their final project.

Preparedness / Make-up and Late Work

Besides turning in quality work, students must also turn in assignments on time to earn full credit. I will still collect assignments up to a week after the due date for partial credit. If a student is absent when I give an assignment, he or she is responsible to get any missing work, either before or after school, in class, or during E-Time.

Screening Expectations

It is important that students understand proper movie-screening etiquette if they are to stay in this class. They may (and should) laugh at funny parts in movies, **but they absolutely cannot talk or ad-lib during movies. Doing so will result in removal to a different classroom.** If they are not in class to watch the films, they will not do well on the assignments. Students also must keep their heads up and stay attentive whenever the lights are off and the film is rolling, even if the film does not seem interesting. One thing I can promise is each student will love at least one film we watch but will also probably hate another film. The purpose of this class is not for students to watch movies they already know they like; it is to analyze great films, some of which they would never watch in their free time.

Citizenship

Students start each term with 100 citizenship points. Failure to follow class and school rules will result in a loss of citizenship points. Their citizenship is Satisfactory (S) until they drop below 85 points. If they fall below 85 points, their citizenship Needs Improvement (N). Students below 70 points have Unsatisfactory Citizenship (U). Maintaining Satisfactory Citizenship is important, not only for its correlation to classroom learning but also for eligibility reasons. Students below S cannot participate in any school activities.

Materials

Students must come to class with a writing utensil every day. They also need to bring a notebook during the first week of the semester that will stay in the classroom (their *Screening Journal*). I will encourage them to purchase an inexpensive flash drive (you can get an 8 gb flashdrive on Amazon for less than \$10) on which they will store video files for editing. Lastly, if students have a smartphone with a camera, I encourage them to bring it for filming exercises. They should not go out and buy one if they do not already own one.

Mr. Ryan's *Literature & Film* (reilly.ryan@nebo.edu, 801-798-4052)

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Policies and Procedures

Student and Parents/Guardians,

After reading the information above, print and sign your names below to show that you understand this class's policies and procedures and are willing to abide by them.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____