

Syllabus | Film as Literature (12th)

Language Arts | Room 507 | 2022-2023

Jason Willmon | jwillmon@rsd7.net | 501-667-3186 Ext. 1176

Class Description

Welcome to Film as Literature! The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the main elements of film and how movies are interpreted and understood by the audience. This class is for all 12th 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
- 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 (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 can be turned in for full credit anytime within the same semester.
- Test and quizzes can be made up within the same semester if missed because of an excused absence.
- 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 up the work when you return.
- Assignments and materials will always 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.

What will we learn?

We will focus on four key aspects of Film studies:

- 1) The language of film -- how movies are made and the filmmaking techniques used to tell a visual story
- 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 theory -- how film intersects 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 using 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 and 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.
- Short Film -- Students will write a film script (or storyboard) and make a short film of their own to share with the class.
- Various short writing pieces
- Write a comparative analysis 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 can be difficult for many young people. First, many students 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. Being a casual consumer is not good enough for me as a teacher, and should not be ok for you as a student. The point of the class is not to entertain, it is to understand and analyze. What I want is for you to build an *understanding* of visual information. What you learn in this class is not just about how to understand movies, but will help you to analyze advertisements, news, political speeches, and many other forms of visual information, in order to become better informed individuals.

What it means to be a RAIDER

All raiders are...

Prepared and punctual

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

Organized

Raiders maintain a binder and planner.

Writers

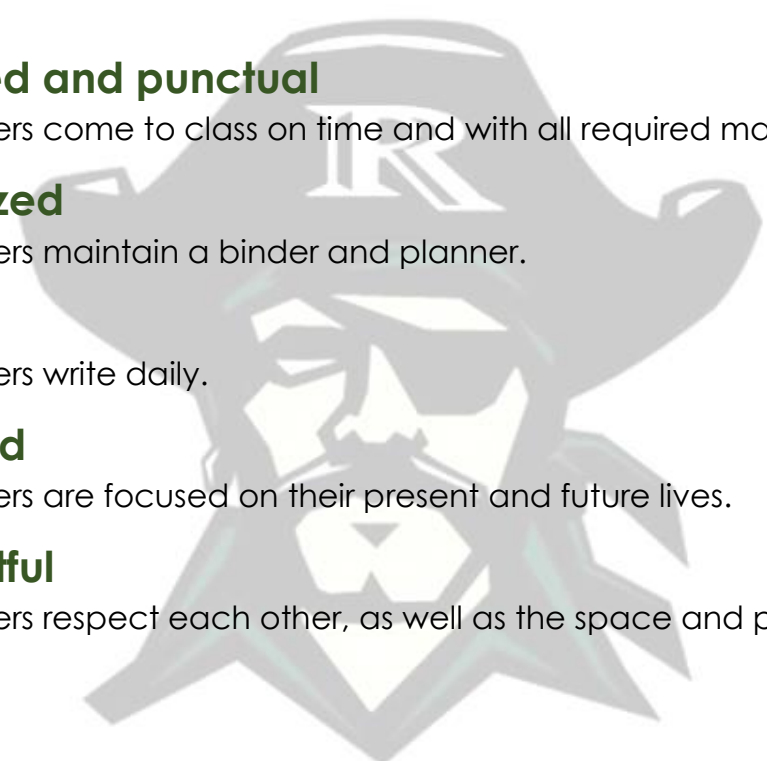
Raiders write daily.

Engaged

Raiders are focused on their present and future lives.

Respectful

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 _____