

Course Name: Writing on Film

Duration: 1 Semester Full Year

Grade Level: 9th 10th 11th 12th (check all that apply)

Are there any prerequisites for the course?

The only prerequisite is that you want to learn more about film and to improve your writing!

WHAT this course is about:

This is an English class in which the texts are films instead of printed material. We will watch many clips in class, and you will have many opportunities to watch movies of your own choosing. You will write various types of assignments based on the movies you watch. I love movies, and I hope by the time you're done you will too! You will become a better writer as well!

WHY take this course:

The goal is that the writing assignments will be extra interesting because you will be writing about movies that interest you. Also, you will do similar assignments multiple times, so you will have the opportunity to practice and get better. One repeat assignment is writing movie reviews in class, and you will get the opportunity to read your classmates' reviews, too, so you will get many ideas for your future movie viewing. Most importantly, you will be given time in class to complete your writing assignments.

WHAT you'll learn:

- The basics of film, such as types of shots, angles, lighting, editing, sound, music, film careers.
- All kinds of tidbits about movies. For instance, the Hays Code was a set of rules for movie censorship that lasted until the 1960s. Why did it end? Find out in class! What is a Texas Switch? Find that out in class, too!
- You will learn about genres of film such as documentary, science fiction, fantasy, coming of age films, etc.
- You will learn how to write better reviews. You'll review movies, YouTube video essays, and more!
- You will practice how to write a comparison/contrast paragraph. For instance, you will watch two coming-of-age movies of your choice and compare them. You will also watch a movie, read the short story it was based on, and compare the two.
- You will learn how to write screenplay by writing an alternative ending to a movie you have seen. If you didn't like the ending, you can change it!
- You will NOT learn how to make films. That is a different class 😊

WHAT you'll do:

- The class is called Writing on Film, so you will watch....and write! Classic horror writer Stephen King said "I write to know what I think," and I structure my assignments around that. Sometimes we

watch movies and we're not sure what we think about them. However, when we write about them, we get to work out our thoughts. I love to help you process your thoughts in writing.

- You will watch entire movies of your choosing, and together we will watch clips in class and participate in discussions with table partners and the whole class.
- You will read reviews and listen to podcasts about movies.
- You will write everything from informal paragraphs in class to full reviews. Class time is given to complete writing assignments, so if you are here every day, there shouldn't be much homework.

WHERE this could take you:

- The only way to get better at writing is...to write. I hope that the practice you get and the feedback you receive will make you a better and more confident writer. This will definitely help you in college.
- Also, with the amount of writing practice you get in class, you will become a better thinker as well. This will help in college and in *life!*
- You will definitely learn more about movies. Who knows, you could become an insufferable film snob!