

Syllabus: The Classics: Film and Literature 23.719
Mr. Scirocco
2008-2009

Objectives - This course will help you:

- understand how literary classics have been adapted into films;
- compare and contrast literature and film as narrative art forms in order to appreciate the differences;
- read and understand film as a form of literature, with the traditional elements of fiction - plot, character, settings, point of view, symbol and theme;
- understand the mythic structure in storytelling found both in literature and film;
- understand the characteristics of different genres in film history;
- develop film literacy: the ability to identify and use the basic technical and critical vocabulary of motion pictures;
- develop the ability to analyze both literature and film;
- develop the ability to write critically and creatively about film;
- understand the principles and techniques of screenwriting
- do research in film studies.

Activities - In order to achieve these objectives, students will:

- read and discuss selections from *Myth and Movies*, *The Power of Film*, and *Screenwriting for Teens*
- read and discuss specific short stories, plays, and novels;
- view and analyze both classic and contemporary films;
- keep a response journal on film;
- write reviews of films;
- write short essays comparing and contrasting film to literature and film to film;
- write and produce the screenplays for two short films (from page to screen);

Texts:

- *Myth and the Movies*
- *The Power of Film*
- *Screenwriting for Teens*
- *Double Indemnity*
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
- *Much Ado About Nothing*
- *Streetcar Name Desire*
- Other works to be assigned

Evaluation:

- 80% of your grade will be based on participation, quizzes, tests, journal, essays, and projects.
- 20% of your grade will be based on the final film project/exam.
- Late assignments will receive a letter grade reduction for each day late

Discipline:

Students are expected to abide by the rules & regulations set forth in the Student Handbook.

Please read and return this form by the assigned date.

I have read the syllabus for The Classics: Film and Literature (English 23.719) and understand the expectations of the course. I also understand the disciplinary standards for this class have been set forth in the Student Handbook.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____