

Literature and Film, level 9

Year: Senior (12)
Course Code: W232439

Prerequisite: English 3
Course Code (Short): LitFilm9

Description: Literature and Film offers the opportunity for students to apply the critical thinking, reading, and analytic training from their English classes to the visual medium of cinema. By connecting the literature and films that we study on a thematic basis, the course will help students explore several expansive questions such as, "Do we shape the future or does the future shape us?" and "How do decisions shape identity?" Units of study will be organized around different themes and genres; Film Noir, Coming of Age, Psychological Thriller, Dystopia, Comedy, and Documentary.

In addition to continuing skill development with varying compositions and texts from across a range of literary genres, students will be introduced to the basics of film analysis, formal cinematic elements, genre exploration, and the narrative structure in a screenplay. Students who register for this course will engage with both **film** and **literary** texts with a critical eye, examining the choices of both writers and filmmakers and how those choices impact meaning.

Core texts and films: *Foster* (Keegan), *Wildlife* (Ford), *Othello* (Shakespeare), *Oedipus* (Sophocles), *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* (Dick), *Double Indemnity*, *Get Out*, *Silence of the Lambs*, and *Lady Bird*.

Students will participate in teacher-led discussions of texts and films, demonstrating understanding through formal writing, such as critical essays, and informal writing, such as response journals. In addition, students will participate in student-led discussions, group projects, and after-hours film viewings at the Wilmette Theater as an essential part of this class.

WRITING EXPECTATIONS

SEMESTER 1:

Process:

1. College Essay
2. One Process essay

Timed:

3. One in-class essay

SEMESTER 2:

Process:

1. Two process essays

Timed:

2. One in-class essay

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READING LIST
 (required works and units in **bold** are core)
 (works in **red** must be ordered from the bookstore)

SUMMER READING:

Unit 1. Summer Reading

- a. Novel: Keegan, Claire. **Foster.**
- b. Film: Anderson, Wes. **Moonrise Kingdom.** 2012. Focus Features. PG-13

SEMESTER 1:

Unit 2. College Essay

Unit 3. Coming of Age

- a. Novel or play:
 - 1. Ford, Richard. **Wildlife.**
 - 2. Shanley, John Patrick. Doubt: A Parable.
 - 3. Yang, Gene Luen. American Born Chinese.
- b. Films:

Title	Director	Year	Rating
1. Ladybird	Gerwig	2017	R
2. <u>Eighth Grade</u>	Burnham	2018	R
3. <u>Moonlight</u>	Jenkins	2016	R
4. <u>Petite Maman</u>	Sciamma	2021	PG
5. <u>The Farewell</u>	Wang	2019	PG
6. <u>Boyhood</u>	Linklater	2014	R
7. <u>The Social Network</u>	Fincher	2010	PG-13

Unit 4. Psychological Thriller

- a. Novels and Plays:
 - 1. Shakespeare, William. **Othello.**
 - 2. McCarthy, Cormac. The Road.
- b. Short Stories:

Title	Author	Note
"An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"	Bierce	
"The Guest"	Camus	
"Neighbors"	Carver	
"Cathedral"	Carver	
"The Enormous Radio"	Cheever	
"Soldier's Home"	Hemingway	

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c. Films:

Title	Director	Year	Rating
1. <u>The Silence of the Lambs</u>	Demme	1991	R
2. <u>Get Out!</u>	Peele	2017	R
3. <u>Rear Window</u>	Hitchcock	1954	PG
4. <u>Jaws</u>	Spielberg	1975	PG
5. <u>Parasite</u>	Ho	2019	R

SEMESTER 2:

Unit 5. Film Noir and the Existential Crisis

a. Novel:

1. Dick, Phillip K. **Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep.**

b. Films (select two or more):

Title	Director	Year	Rating
1. <u>Double Indemnity</u>	Wilder	1944	NR
2. <u>Memento</u>	Nolan	2000	R
3. <u>Fargo</u>	Coen	1996	R
4. <u>No Country for Old Men</u>	Coen	2007	R
5. <u>L.A. Confidential</u>	Hanson	1997	R
6. <u>Rear Window</u>	Hitchcock	1954	PG

Unit 6. Dystopia

a. Novels and plays (select one in addition to the core text):

1. Atwood, Margaret. The Handmaid's Tale.
2. Hamid, Mohsin. Exit West.
3. Sophocles. Antigone.
4. Sophocles. **Oedipus the King.**

b. Films:

Title	Director	Year	Rating
1. <u>Snowpiercer</u>	Bong	2013	R
2. <u>Children of Men</u>	Cuarón	2006	R
3. <u>Mad Max: Fury Road</u>	Miller	2015	R
4. <u>Pleasantville</u>	Ross	1998	PG-13
5. <u>Minority Report</u>	Spielberg	2002	PG-13
6. <u>The Truman Show</u>	Weir	1998	PG

Choose one unit to complete semester 2:

Unit 7. Comedy

a. Novel:

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1. Kafka, Franz. The Metamorphosis.
2. Vonnegut, Kurt. Slaughterhouse Five.

b. Films:

Title	Director	Year	Rating
1. <u>Modern Times</u>	Chaplin	1936	NR
2. <u>Some Like it Hot</u>	Wilder	1959	NR
3. <u>Stranger Than Fiction</u>	Forster	2006	PG-13
4. <u>Raising Arizona</u>	Coen	1987	PG-13

Unit 8. Documentary

a. Novels:

O'Brien, Tim. The Things They Carried.

b. Films:

Title	Director	Year	Rating
1. <u>Free Solo</u>	Chin	2018	PG-13
2. <u>13th</u>	DuVernay	2016	TV-MA
3. <u>Bowling for Columbine</u>	Moore	2002	R
4. <u>Baseball</u>	Burns	1994	TV-PG
5. <u>The Thin Blue Line</u>	Morris	1988	NR