

Literature and Film

Overview

This course explores the relationship between film and literature. Selected novels, short stories and plays are analyzed in relation to film versions of the same works in order to gain an understanding of the pros and cons involved in the bringing literature to cinematic life. Students will:

Enhance their ability to understand, appreciate, and discuss works of literature through extensive reading and discussion of short stories, novels and plays.

Analyze works of fiction and drama for plot structure, setting, characterization, theme, and narrative point of view.

Develop an understanding of critical analysis of film through careful examination of cinematic adaptations of literary texts, focusing on character development, dramatic structure, and performance.

Learn and utilize the terminology of film analysis, both those terms shared with literary discussion (character, plot, theme, setting) and those specific to cinema (lighting, montage, special effects, etc.).

Course Rationale: In order to be successful members of society, students need to know how to read, write, and think critically. Class activities will help students develop these skills.

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Other: 1 trimester

Texts may include: *Animal Farm*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Julius Caesar*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, “The Birds,” “The Minority Report,” and “The Pit and the Pendulum.” The class may also read a screenplay to enhance their understanding of writing specifically for the big screen.