

Media Literacy Syllabus 2021-2022

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Course Description:

We engage with media every day. This course will empower students to be active learners in our media-rich environment and to think critically about how media shapes and influences culture. The primary focus of this course is to examine various forms of media in popular culture and to understand their impact in terms of both their advantages and their limitations. More specifically, the following objectives will be taught through projects, tests, reading, writing, journaling, and oral presentations:

*to create an awareness of the different types of media, their historical backgrounds and various purposes

*to critically analyze various forms of mass media in terms of audience/purpose, content/framing, and format/techniques

Texts and Media Resources:

Introduction to Mass Communication by Stanley Baran

Because of the fast-paced nature of the media world, some of the material in class will be articles, essays, handouts, and videos taken from the Center for Media Literacy as well as other sources. Newspaper and magazine articles, advertisements from a variety of sources, recordings of television programs and commercials, documentaries or instructive videos related to media topics are also essential components of the course.

Other texts include:

Models for Writers: Short Essays for Composition (Alfred Rosa and Paul Eschholz)

The Riverside Reader (Joseph Trimmer)

Understanding the Film (Jan Bone and Ron Johnson)

Films:

Many of the films or film excerpts that are shown in class will be selected from the attached list. Because of time constraints, all of these films may not be used. I have also included the director and film rating. This list does not include educational videos that may be used to enhance understanding of the various units of study. Educational videos may examine political, social, and economic factors related to the media and may

include clips or segments from film, television, magazines, and other media that are part of popular culture.

Possible Books for Outside Reading:

Edwin A. Abbott, *Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions*

Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*

Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*

Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

Lois Lowry's series: *The Giver*, *Gathering Blue*, *Messenger*, *Son*

Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Antoine de Saint-Exupery, *The Little Prince*

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*; *The Lord of the Rings* series

Karl Weber and Participant Media's *Food Inc.: A Participant Guide*

Assigned book from departmental reading list

Topics for Analysis and Discussion:

comics and animation

music

censorship in media

film

newspaper and television news

Internet and social media

television programs and streaming platforms

advertising

corporate control and responsibility

new and developing media trends

Course Requirements:

homework research-based projects and assignments

class work and projects (both individual and group)

media reading circle assignments

essays, tests, and quizzes

oral presentations

class discussion and seminar

outside reading

Grading Policy:

Students will access individual grades through the program Parent Portal. Grading will be done on a total point system; point values are based on the importance and complexity of each assignment. For example, tests will be worth 100 points, and quizzes, projects, and other assignments may vary.

If a student is absent or needs to check on assignments, it is his or her responsibility to make up missing work in accordance with the deadlines outlined in the syllabus. If there are questions about an assignment or additional materials that the student needs, arrangements need to be made for a time to come after school. Instructional time will not be used to do this.

Please see the policy regarding cheating and plagiarism that is posted on my web page and is also available in Canvas.

Late work policy: Please see the Policy for High School English Department which is posted on the web page. This is extremely important to your child's success.

Electronic Devices:

Chromebooks may frequently be used for class assignments, projects, and activities. These are allowed to be used in class only when the teacher has given permission to do so. Students using any electronic device without permission are subject to the consequences outlined in the student handbook.

Materials:

*Chromebook and Canvas Account

* Textbook, classroom handouts and/or notes, and any other supplementary materials

Classroom Expectations:

* Be on time to class and seated when the bell rings.

* Be prepared for class. You will not be allowed to return to your locker once class begins.

* You are responsible for and expected to give your very best work. In order to be successful in this class, you will be expected to complete all homework and class assignments.

* Be fully present in class. Listen actively and engage in the learning process.

* Respect the dignity and worth of every person in the classroom. This includes your peers, your teacher, and the perspectives of those individuals studied in class. Use “I” statements in class discussion.

Film List:

Julian Amyes, *Great Expectations* (Not Rated, BBC video)

Gillian Armstrong, *Little Women* (PG)

Richard Attenborough, *Gandhi* (PG)

Brad Bird, *Iron Giant* (PG)

Jeffrey Blitz, *Spellbound* (G)

Steve Box and Nick Park: *Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit* (G)

Wallace and Gromit in Three Amazing Adventures (NR)

Alfonso Cuaron, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (PG)

Alfonso Cuaron, *Gravity* (PG-13)

Robert Enrico, *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge* (NR)

Chris Eyre, *Smoke Signals* (PG-13)

Victor Fleming and George Cukor, *The Wizard of Oz* (PG)

Clyde Geronimi, Wilfred Jackson, and Hamilton Luske, *Alice in Wonderland* (G)

Jennifer Grausman and Mark Becker, *Pressure Cooker* (NR)

Davis Guggenheim, *An Inconvenient Truth* (PG)

Peter Jackson, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (PG-13)

Steve James, *Hoop Dreams* (PG-13)

Robert Kenner, *Food, Inc.* (PG)

Ang Lee, *Life of Pi* (PG)

Hayao Miyazaki, *Spirited Away* (PG); *Castle in the Sky* (PG)

Mark Osborne, *The Little Prince* (PG)

Andrew Patterson, *The Vast of Night* (PG-13)

Micha X. Peled: *China Blue* (NR)

Jacques Perrin: *Winged Migration* (G)

Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey, and Rodney Rotham: *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* (PG)

Harold Ramis: *Groundhog Day* (PG)

Godfrey Reggio: *Koyaanisqatsi* (NR); *Powaqqatsi* (G)

Thomas Riedelsheimer: *Rivers and Tides* (Not Rated)

Phil Alden Robinson: *Field of Dreams* (PG)

Andrew Stanton: *Wall*E* (G)

Ben Stiller: *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (PG)

Peter Weir: *The Truman Show* (PG)

Orson Welles: *Citizen Kane* (PG)