

Film Studies with Mrs. Neal

This course is devoted to the critical study and possible production of moving-image art. It will engage students in the history, theory, and/or production of cinema. We will examine the moving image across a range of industrial and artisanal contexts and will understand cinema as an art, business, and technology. We will explore the narrative, artistic, cultural, economic, and political implications of the cinema.

Think of your favorite movie. Was it the story you liked? Or the characters? The action? How about the look of it? Digging deep into your gut feelings about movies is just the beginning of film studies.

If movies mean more to you than just an evening out with your friends, this could be the class for you. You'll learn how to discuss and write about films critically. You'll also learn about the connections movies have to history and national identities. You'll even learn what all those people listed in the credits actually do, like a *gaffer* is a lighting technician.

We will watch a wide variety of movies...covering many genres. We will take a historical or chronological approach, starting with a film from the early 1900s until now.

Mrs. Neal's Expectations

I expect you to follow the “Golden Rule.” Treat each other and me with respect.

I expect you to watch the films during class. I expect you to stay awake. If you are caught napping, you will lose your daily participation points for the day.

I expect you to do the assignments. I expect you to be willing to discuss your thoughts and opinions about the films.

I expect you to have your phones out of sight. We will NOT use them for this course. If you are afraid that you will access your phone, put it in the class cell phone holder when you arrive. If you access your phone, you will lose your daily participation points for the day.

Grade Expectations

Since this course is an English elective, we will be covering the standard categories for Michigan's Language Arts. All categories will be worth 20% of your final grade: *Writing* (quick writes after each film, movie reviews, project, etc.), *Reading* (weekly movie reviews), *Speaking & Listening* (daily participation, acceptance speech, etc.), *Language* (Opening Work, notes, etc.), and *Assessment* (final exam).

It is my goal (Mrs. Neal's too) to have a successful year and to do my best.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

I have read and discussed with my child, _____, the expectations for him/her in Mrs. Neal's classroom. I realize that it is important for me to be involved in my child's education. If I have any questions, comments, or concerns, I will contact Mrs. Neal at 269-695-8403 ext. 20201 during school hours or e-mail her at eneal@buchananschools.com at my convenience.

Signed: _____

Date: _____