

## **Introduction to Film – English 101**

Spring 2009

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and Oconto Falls High School

### **Instructor:**

Victoria Dallmann

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Location: OFHS room 123

Office hours: Hour 2 (9:00-9:45 A.M.) and Hour 6 (12:51-1:35)

**Prerequisite:** *Introduction to Literature-English 104*

### **Required Text:**

Film Art: an Introduction, 8th ed. by David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson ISBN-10: 0-07-353506-0

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad ISBN-10: 1580495753

Jonathan Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach ISBN-10: 0743278909

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift ISBN-10: 1593080570

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead by Tom Stoppard (Provided in Class)

### **Course Description and Objectives:**

As the course title indicates, this course is an introduction to a deeper appreciation for film as an art form. You will become acquainted with the terms and concepts of analyzing film and with film history. However, it is not only about the movies. This course will also introduce classic literature and their movie counterparts. You will be asked to read and discuss the novel as a literary art form and then view the film as its artistic interpretation. The questions we will try to answer are, "What is the affect Hollywood has on classic works of literature?" and "How is a "story" told through film?" We will discuss such things as mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, and sound among other aspects of "film art" you will learn.

By the end of this course, students will be able to express, through writing and discussions, their understanding of and appreciation for good literature and film. This course will help you

- Develop a working vocabulary of film study
- Develop the ability to analyze the novel
- Develop the ability to analyze film
- Respond to literary works and film in coherent academic-essay format
- Improve your writing skills

### **Attendance:**

There will be a considerable amount of reading, writing, and viewing film for this class. I expect you to be in class on time every day, and to be prepared to discuss the assignments assigned for that day. Class participation is very important for your success. If you have a planned absence, it is your responsibility to talk to me before you leave. If you are absent due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact me as soon as possible. We will be viewing films in class. If you miss a film, you will be responsible for watching it on your own time. If there is an assignment due on the day you are absent, please email it to me or have it delivered. Any late assignments will be penalized 10% (one full letter grade) for each day it is late. For example: an assignment that is one day late can not earn better than a AB. If you have any questions about deadlines please see me.

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## **Reading and**

### **Writing Assignments:**

You will be given a separate syllabus that includes reading and writing assignment due dates. Please be prepared to discuss the literature either in small groups or as a whole class. This course is a UWGB Writing Emphasis course. Written assignments must be typed in formal essay format: Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced, min. 2 pages (unless otherwise assigned). All papers are to be turned in on the due date. If you are absent, email it to me, or have someone bring it in. We will discuss these assignments in more detail at the start of the semester.

**Writing Emphasis (WE) requirement-** This requirement is to provide students with structured opportunities to practice their writing skills. You will be writing three major papers that critically analyze works of literature and how the authors' "narrative art" is told through "film art". There will also be many in-class essay tests and shorter typed essays to show what you have learned from the various readings. You will receive a detailed list of when these essays will be due, and I will answer any questions you may have at that time. I will evaluate the *quality* of your writing in addition to the content. This means considering such things as: thesis, organization, in-depth analysis, clarity of expression, and strong college-level language and mechanics. After I have graded your first essay, and I feel that you could use help in improving your writing, I will be available to help before and after school or during my office hours. My door is always open.

### **Plagiarism; Do Not Do It!**

Plagiarism is a very serious offense. It occurs when you use someone else's words or ideas without giving him or her credit. Using the words or ideas of a student, teacher, author, the internet, a movie, etc. without correct citation is illegal. I will discuss ways to avoid plagiarism through proper citations before your first writing assignment. Any attempt at plagiarism will result in a failed assignment. If you have any questions, please see me.

**Film Assignments:** We will be viewing several films discussed in the Film Art text and then you will write brief papers that analyze just the films alone. You will then write more in-depth papers concerning both the literature and its film adaptation once you understand film analysis. I will be discussing these assignments as the semester progresses.

**Quizzes/Tests:** There will be both multiple choice quizzes and essay tests. Multiple choice quizzes will assess vocabulary and general comprehension of film study as found in the film text and comprehension tests on the classic literature. Essay tests will be written in class and will test your understanding of both the literary work and your knowledge of film analysis. If absent, all tests must be completed on the day you return.

### **Grading:**

Essays- 50% (essay tests and all typed papers.)

Coursework- 25% (All journals and homework assignments from the text)

Multiple Choice Tests- 25% (pop quizzes on various readings from *Film Art* and the literature)

Semester Final Grade=Q1-40% + Q2 - 40% + Semester Final Exam - 20% =100%