We live in a world flooded with film and other media; rather than view it mindlessly or avoid it altogether, it is important to make smart decisions in how we consume it and how we interpret it. In this Literature & Film class, students will learn how to approach a complex film text to get the most out of it. This will involve “reading” it similarly to how one reads a novel, short story, or other written text while also taking into account characteristics unique to film. As a means to further understand the filmmaking process, students will also create storyboards, write screenplays, and make their own films.

A typical week in Literature & Film
Each week we will examine how a principle/theory works in a specific film. For example, we will study genre when we watch Buster Keaton, Abbot and Costello, etc. I will spend the majority of one class period introducing the concept, and the rest of the week we will spend most of our time watching the movie. Almost every day we have short writing assignments to go along with our film screenings.

Movie List
The films I have chosen for us to view in this class adhere closely to Nebo School District’s no-PG-13-or-worse policy. If you still have concerns about any of them after looking at the list, let me know, and I can either find a different movie or come up with an alternative assignment for your child.

*Gaza* (Directed by Garry Keane and Andrew McConnell, 2019, 90 min., not rated)
*On the Waterfront* (Directed by Elia Kazan, 1954, 108 min., not rated)
*Pee-Wee's Big Adventure* (Directed by Tim Burton, 1985, 91 min., rated PG)
*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Directed by Tim Burton, 2005, 115 min., rated PG)
*Wait Until Dark* (Directed by Terence Young, 1967, 108 min., not rated)
*The Man Who Knew Too Much* (Directed by Alfred Hitchcock, 1956, 120 min., rated PG)
*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-verse* (Directed by Bob Persichetti, 2018, 117 min., rated PG)
*Leave No Trace* (Directed by Debra Granik, 2018, 109 min., rated PG)
*Three Amigos!* (Directed by John Landis, 1986, 104 min., rated PG)
*The Truman Show* (Directed by Peter Weir, 1998, 103 min., rated PG)
*Wall-E* (Directed by Andrew Stanton, 2008, 98 min., rated G)
*Home Alone* (Directed by Chris Columbus, 1990, 103 min., rated PG)
*Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (Directed by Don Siegel, 1956, 80 min., not rated)
*The Day the Earth Stood Still* (Directed by Robert Wise, 1951, 92 min., rated G)
*ESPN 30 for 30 films* (Various Directors/Years)
*Hoosiers* (Directed by David Anspaugh, 1986, 114 min., rated PG)
*The Sandlot* (Directed by David Mickey Evans, 1993, 101 min., rated PG)

Note: if you do not see a rating next to a movie, it is because it was made in the good old days before the existence of the MPAA rating system, when most movies contained far less objectionable material than they do today.

Aside from watching these films in their entirety, we will watch many clips from other films and TV shows, including *Won’t You Be My Neighbor, The King of Kong, Metropolis, 2001: A Space Odyssey, Ready Player One, Minority Report, The Hunger Games, A Quiet Place, Rear Window, The Fugitive, Jaws, Beetlejuice, Edward Scissorhands, Batman, The Jazz Singer, Seven Samurai,* and *The Magnificent Seven.*
Grading
Grades are weighted as follows:
- 50% Class Assignments (including Screening Journals)
- 50% Projects (Storyboard, Screenplay, Film Project, etc.)

Class Assignments/Homework
Students will earn the majority of their Class Assignment points in screening journals—they will answer questions and take notes in complete sentences for full points. From time to time, I will have them perform an analysis of a movie they view outside of class for homework.

Projects
Over the course of the semester, each student will write a screenplay and create a storyboard and film. At the end of the semester, they will go back to one of these projects and add more extensively to it. During the last few weeks of class, they will present their final project.

Preparedness / Make-up and Late Work
Besides turning in quality work, students must also turn in assignments on time to earn full credit. I will still collect assignments up to a week after the due date for partial credit. If a student is absent when I give an assignment, he or she is responsible to get any missing work, either before or after school, in class, or during E-Time.

Screening Expectations
It is important that students understand proper movie-screening etiquette if they are to stay in this class. They may (and should) laugh at funny parts in movies, **but they absolutely cannot talk or ad-lib during movies. Doing so will result in removal to a different classroom.** If they are not in class to watch the films, they will not do well on the assignments. Students also must keep their heads up and stay attentive whenever the lights are off and the film is rolling, even if the film does not seem interesting. One thing I can promise is each student will love at least one film we watch but will also probably hate another film. The purpose of this class is not for students to watch movies they already know they like; it is to analyze great films, some of which they would never watch in their free time.

Citizenship
Students start each term with 100 citizenship points. Failure to follow class and school rules will result in a loss of citizenship points. Their citizenship is Satisfactory (S) until they drop below 85 points. If they fall below 85 points, their citizenship Needs Improvement (N). Students below 70 points have Unsatisfactory Citizenship (U). Maintaining Satisfactory Citizenship is important, not only for its correlation to classroom learning but also for eligibility reasons. Students below S cannot participate in any school activities.

Materials
Students must come to class with a writing utensil every day. They also need to bring a notebook during the first week of the semester that will stay in the classroom (their Screening Journal). I will encourage them to purchase an inexpensive flash drive (**you can get an 8 gb flashdrive on Amazon for less than $10**) on which they will store video files for editing. Lastly, if students have a smartphone with a camera, I encourage them to bring it for filming exercises. They should not go out and buy one if they do not already own one.
Mr. Ryan's Literature & Film (reilly.ryan@nebo.edu, 801-798-4052)
Disclosure Document:
Policies and Procedures

Student and Parents/Guardians,
After reading the information above, print and sign your names below to show that you understand this class’s policies and procedures and are willing to abide by them.

Student Name: ________________________________________________________________

Student Signature: __________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name: ______________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: _________________________________________________