



Mrs. Payton

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*Conference Availability / Office Hours*

I'm available during Wildcat Assistance and before and after school except Wednesdays

## SEMESTER AT A GLANCE

### Unit 1: Introduction to Adaptation Theory

**What we're learning:** The theoretical foundations of adaptation studies

**Key**

**concepts:** Fidelity, medium specificity, film language, archetypes  
**Skills focus:** Comparative analysis, academic vocabulary, visual literacy

We'll start by building your toolkit for analyzing both literature and film. You'll learn the specialized vocabulary critics use to discuss adaptations and practice identifying what makes each medium unique.

### Unit 2: Short Stories on Screen

**Texts:** "All Summer in a Day," "The Lottery," "Three-Ten to Yuma" and their film adaptations

**Skills focus:** Close reading, mood analysis, thematic interpretation

**Creative component:** Mood museum creation, social issue connections

Short stories offer perfect case studies for adaptation because their brevity allows us to examine every choice closely. We'll see how filmmakers expand or condense these compact narratives.

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## CLASS GOALS

This course explores the fascinating world of literary adaptation, examining how stories transform as they move from page to screen. We'll dive deep into both the art of storytelling and the craft of filmmaking, developing critical thinking skills that will serve you well beyond high school. Whether you're a bookworm, a film buff, or completely new to both, you'll discover new ways to analyze and appreciate narrative across different mediums.

Throughout this semester, we'll investigate how the same story can be told in dramatically different ways depending on its medium. You'll learn to "read" films with the same critical eye you bring to literature, while also understanding the unique strengths each medium offers storytellers.

## GROWTH & GRADING

I believe in assessing your growth and understanding rather than seeking perfection. Your grade will reflect how well you grasp and apply key concepts, not just your natural writing ability or prior knowledge.

### Formative (40%)

#### Daily learning activities & ongoing skill development

- Discussions, peer feedback
- Exit tickets, quizzes
- Viewing guides, graphic organizers

### Summative (25%)

#### Major Unit assessments

- Analysis & comparison essays
- Critical Reviews

### Projects (20%)

#### Creative and research-based adaptations

- Storyboards
- Multimodal presentations
- Modernizations/adaptations

### Final Exam (15%)

#### Comprehensive semester exam

### Important Grading Notes:

- **Multiple ways to show learning:** You'll have choices in how you demonstrate understanding
- **Process over product & a growth mindset:** Your improvement throughout the semester matters more than where you started
- **Cultural responsiveness:** Your unique perspectives and experiences are valued and incorporated
- **While I do not give extra credit assignments, there may be bonus point opportunities on some quizzes or assignments.**

### Unit 3: Young Adult Novel Analysis

**Text:** *The Giver* (novel & film)

**Skills focus:** Character development, world-building, dystopian genre conventions

**Creative component:** Virtual reality community design project

Young adult adaptations face unique challenges in translating internal character growth to visual storytelling. We'll explore how filmmakers handle complex themes for teen audiences.

### Unit 4: Classic Literature Adaptations

**Text:** *Pride and Prejudice* (novel & film adaptation)

**Skills focus:** Historical context, social commentary, cultural translation  
**Creative component:** "Living History" immersion experience

Classic adaptations must make centuries-old stories relevant to modern audiences. We'll examine how different time periods have reimagined Austen's social critiques.

### Unit 5: Final Adaptation Project

**Your choice:** Select your own text to adapt from list

**Project options**      **Skills focus:** Creative application, project management, presentation skills

This is where you demonstrate everything you've learned by creating your own adaptation. You'll choose the format that best showcases your strengths and interests.

## What never goes out of style: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.

Plain and simple: **the work you submit must be your own.**

**I refuse to accept AI generated or someone else's work passed off as your work.** Additionally, without observed and obvious class-produced progress, assignments & projects will be returned and marked 0 in the gradebook..

Refer to our school's academic honesty policy in the student handbook (pg 19) [HERE](#).

# POLICIES

## LATE WORK

Missing work is entered into the gradebook as a **ZERO** - **regardless of reason** - until it is made up. **If not made up within the specified time, the zero is permanent.**

Due dates for assignments will be shared in class & posted in **Google Classroom**. Life happens, and I want you to succeed. Here's how we'll handle late assignments:

- **Automatic 20% reduction** from the earned grade
- **7 school days maximum** to submit for credit
- **Communicate with me** if you're facing major challenges
- **Missing class for school activities or athletics does not excuse meeting due dates.**

*If late work becomes a pattern, we will meet to figure out the underlying reason and collaborate to find solutions so you can get your work in on time.*

## TECH

- ❑ **School cell phone policy will be followed** ([page 11 of student handbook](#)).
- ❑ It is expected you bring your **charged Chromebook** every day to class
- ❑ Chromebook used **only when given permission**
- ❑ **No games, movies, online shopping, etc.** during class.
- ❑ No photos or video/audio recording of classmates or teacher

## SUPPLIES

Please bring the following to class daily, unless otherwise notified:

- ❑ notebook for film analysis and vocabulary
- ❑ **Charged** Chromebook
- ❑ Pen/Pencil
- ❑ Highlighters
- ❑ Sticky notes
- ❑ Access to assigned readings
- ❑ a **POSITIVE ATTITUDE** :)

## PASSES

### Restroom passes:

Wait for an appropriate time to ask to go.

- ❑ One student at a time
- ❑ Focus on the mission: Do not deviate from your destination; go straight there and return promptly.
- ❑ Cell phones **are not allowed** to be taken to the restroom

### All passes:

Complete the E-hall pass form, then take the pass next to the door with you.

## MISC.

**HOODIES** - No hoodies are allowed to be covering any student head in class.

**BACKPACKS** - Keep backpacks **under** your desk/by your feet and out of the aisle/walkway to avoid being tripping hazards. Athletic bags belong in a locker, not the room.

**BLANKETS**- Absolutely no blankets. Bring a sweatshirt or jacket if you are easily chilled.

I'm excited to explore these stories with you and see how your unique perspectives enrich our classroom discussions. Every voice matters in our learning community, and your cultural background and experiences will help all of us understand stories more deeply.

*Questions? Concerns? Excited observations about storytelling? My door is always open. Let's make this a great semester together!*