

Fall 2023

Lecturer: Jason Siegel

**English 286: Literature & Film (3 Credits)**

Email: jsiegel@uwsp.edu

Office: 322

Time and Place:

Office Hours: MW 11:00 am-12:00 pm

TuTh 12:30-1:45 pm

Office Phone: (715) 261-6289

Room 218 (Wausau), 135 (Marshfield)

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to provide you with a deeper appreciation and understanding of the literary and cinematic arts by teaching you to uncover the richness of verbal and visual compositions. You will learn to analyze great works of literature and film as we read and watch four masterpieces: *Sense and Sensibility* (Jane Austen/Ang Lee), *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (Patricia Highsmith/Anthony Minghella), *A Clockwork Orange* (Anthony Burgess/Stanley Kubrick), and *No Country for Old Men* (Cormac McCarthy/Joel & Ethan Coen).

In the process, we will explore such themes as madness, music, violence, propaganda, art, freedom, racism, intolerance, government oppression, conformity, sexuality, class conflict, greed and American values. We live in a culture that constantly bombards us with words and images, so in addition to learning how authors and filmmakers use language and imagery to communicate ideas and create meaning, you will also learn to pay attention to the ways in which words and images can be used to manipulate you into seeing the world a certain way.

For the most part, class will be run as a large informal discussion that will allow you to work through your ideas, bring up any questions you have, and exchange opinions with your classmates in a way that will broaden your perspective on the novels and films we discuss. I will lecture occasionally to provide you with necessary background information, but my role will be that of a facilitator who guides class discussion. Therefore, this class is what you make of it, and its success depends largely on your willingness to participate and make it your own. You will have to keep up with the reading, take notes on the films we watch, and show up to class with something to say. If you do, you will find this class to be both enjoyable and rewarding.

The course fulfills the AAS depth requirement (after you have taken English 200: Introduction to Literature) and the BA/BS fine arts requirement.

**Requirements:**

Close Reading Essay (2-3 pages)	15% of Grade
Scene Analysis Essay (2-3 pages)	15% of Grade
Comparison Essay (4-5 pages)	25% of Grade
Final Exam	25% of Grade
Attendance / Participation	20% of Grade

**Essays:**

Over the course of the semester, you will produce three essays. Each essay must: 1) Make an original, contestable, specific, and persuasive argument about a literary and/or cinematic work from the course, 2) Gradually develop your reader's understanding of the text, 3) Display

polished and elegant prose, 4) Follow rules of grammar, syntax, and citation, and 5) Be free of typos. You will have the option to rewrite either the Close Reading or Scene Analysis Essay.

**Required Texts:**

*Sense and Sensibility*, Jane Austen  
*The Talented Mr. Ripley*, Patricia Highsmith  
*A Clockwork Orange*, Anthony Burgess  
*No Country for Old Men*, Cormac McCarthy

**Recommended Texts:**

The film versions of the four required texts available on DVD, Blu-ray, or Streaming:

*Sense and Sensibility*, Ang Lee  
*The Talented Mr. Ripley*, Anthony Minghella  
*A Clockwork Orange*, Stanley Kubrick  
*No Country for Old Men*, Joel & Etan Coen

**Grades:**

Grades are equal to the following percentages:

A+	98-100
A	93-97
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	59 and below

**Attendance:**

You are allowed two free absences without penalty, but each subsequent absence will lower the participation portion of your grade by half a grade (i.e. from A to A-). If you miss more than six classes, you will automatically fail the entire course.

**Policy on Academic Misconduct:**

Plagiarism, or taking credit for words or ideas not your own, is a serious offence and will lead to dire consequences. The penalty for plagiarism ranges from failing the course to expulsion from the university. See the *Student Rights and Regulations* handbook for more information about plagiarism and its consequences. If I think you have plagiarized, I will meet with you and refer your name to a disciplinary committee responsible for overseeing the investigation of academic crimes. Except for acknowledged quotations, all of your work is to be written in your own words. You may not copy from a book, another student's paper, a webpage, or any other source.

## Course Calendar

### September

- 5 Tu *In Class:* Introduction to Course  
*Homework:* Read Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (1-37)
- 7 Th *In Class:* Discuss Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (1-37)  
*Homework:* Read Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (37-91)
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- 12 Tu *In Class:* Discuss Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (37-91)  
*Homework:* Read Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (93-149)
- 14 Th *In Class:* Discuss Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (93-149)  
*Homework:* Read Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (149-205)
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- 19 Tu *In Class:* Discuss Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (149-205)  
*Homework:* Read Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (205-261)
- 21 Th *In Class:* Discuss Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (205-261)  
Discuss Film Analysis  
*Homework:* Close Reading Essay Due 10/10
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- 26 Tu *In Class:* Film Viewing: Lee, *Sense and Sensibility*  
*Homework:* Close Reading Essay Due 10/10
- 28 Th *In Class:* Film Viewing: Lee, *Sense and Sensibility*  
*Homework:* Close Reading Essay Due 10/10
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### October

- 3 Tu *In Class:* Discuss Lee, *Sense and Sensibility*  
*Homework:* Read Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1-68)  
Close Reading Essay Due 10/10
- 5 Th *In Class:* Discuss Lee, *Sense and Sensibility*  
Discuss Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1-68)  
*Homework:* Read Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (68-139)
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- 10 Tu *In Class:* Discuss Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (68-139)  
**Close Reading Essay Due**  
*Homework:* Read Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (139-215)
- 12 Th *In Class:* Discuss Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (139-215)  
*Homework:* Read Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (215-271)
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- 17 Tu *In Class: Discuss Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (215-271)*  
*Homework: None*
- 19 Th *In Class: Film Viewing: Minghella, *The Talented Mr. Ripley**  
*Homework: None*
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- 24 Tu *In Class: Film Viewing: Minghella, *The Talented Mr. Ripley**  
*Homework: None*
- 26 Th *In Class: Discuss Minghella, *The Talented Mr. Ripley**  
*Homework: Read Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange* (1-50)*
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- 31 Tu *In Class: Discuss Minghella, *The Talented Mr. Ripley**  
*Discuss Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange* (1-50)*  
*Homework: Read Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange* (51-121)*
- November
- 2 Th *In Class: Discuss Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange* (51-121)*  
*Homework: Scene Analysis Essay Due 11/21*
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- 7 Tu *In Class: Film Viewing: Kubrick, *A Clockwork Orange**  
*Homework: Scene Analysis Essay Due 11/21*
- 9 Th *In Class: Film Viewing: Kubrick, *A Clockwork Orange**  
*Homework: Scene Analysis Essay Due 11/21*
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- 14 Th *In Class: Discuss Kubrick, *A Clockwork Orange**  
*Homework: Read McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men* (1-47)*  
*Scene Analysis Essay Due 11/21*
- 16 Tu *In Class: Discuss Kubrick, *A Clockwork Orange**  
*Discuss McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men* (1-47)*  
*Homework: Read McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men* (48-122)*  
*Scene Analysis Essay Due 11/21*
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- 21 Tu *In Class: Discuss McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men* (48-122)*  
**Scene Analysis Essay Due**  
*Homework: Read McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men* (123-197)*
- 23 Th NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING
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- 28 Tu *In Class: Discuss McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men* (123-197)*  
*Homework: Read McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men* (198-249)*

30 Th *In Class: Discuss McCarthy, No Country for Old Men (198-249)*  
*Homework: Read McCarthy, No Country for Old Men (250-309)*

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December

5 Tu *In Class: Discuss McCarthy, No Country for Old Men (250-309)*  
*Homework: Comparison Essay Due 12/14*

7 Th *In Class: Film Viewing: Coen Brothers, No Country for Old Men*  
*Homework: Comparison Essay Due 12/14*

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12 Tu *In Class: Film Viewing: Coen Brothers, No Country for Old Men*  
*Homework: Comparison Essay Due 12/14*

14 Th *In Class: Discuss Coen Brothers, No Country for Old Men*  
**Comparison Essay Due**  
*Homework: Optional Rewrite of Close Reading or Scene Analysis Essay due 12/18*

**Final Exam Due in Canvas on Monday, December 18 at 4:45 pm**