**Westford Academy Mission Statement**

Westford Academy, in collaboration with home and community, provides a safe environment where high expectations advance academic excellence. We are committed to promoting integrity and critical thinking, while fostering tolerance and life-long learning in an ever-changing global society.

**Film and Literature: Good Movies, Better Books**

**Course Expectations**

Do you know that some of the most thought provoking movies viewed in the 20th and 21st centuries are based on even better novels, short stories and plays? This course will explore the complex interplay between film and literature. Selected novels, short stories, and plays are analyzed in relation to film versions of the same works in order to gain an understanding of the possibilities and problems involved in transferring a story from the page to film. What elements of the work are lost in the transition? What are gained?

**Texts:**

Selections from *A History of Narrative Film 4th Edition,* by David A. Cook

Selections from *Engaging Cinema: An Introduction to Film Studies,* by Bill Nichols

*Film and Literature: An Introduction and Reader*, by Timothy Corrigan

*The Prestige*, by Christopher Priest

*A River Runs Through It*, by Norman Maclean

*Pride and Prejudice*, by Jane Austen

*All Seasons*, “Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption” a novella by Stephen King

*Momento Mori*, by Jonathan Nolan

**Films:**

*Unforgiven*, directed by Clint Eastwood

*The Prestige*, directed by Christopher Nolan

*A River Runs Through It*, Directed by Robert Redford

*Pride and Prejudice* (2005) directed by Joe Wright

*Shawshank Redemption*, directed by Frank Darabont

*Memento*, directed by Christopher Nolan

**Class Expectations:**

* Arrive to class on time and be prepared to productively participate in class.
* Regular attendance is important. We will be watching a number of films over the course of this semester. Discussions and writing assignments are centered on a structured and guided viewing of these films. If you miss a class, you are responsible for arranging to make up your work.
* Outside reading. As a member of this class you will be required to read a number of works of fiction. Please keep up with the reading schedule for each unit.
* Respect diversity of backgrounds, views, and perspectives during all class activities.

**Grading:**

Active Note-taking & Written Reflections – 20%

Homework & Quizzes – 20%

Projects 30%

Writing Assignments – 30%

**Active Note-Taking:** You will be required to take active-reading and active-viewing notes based on the core texts and films in this class. I will be periodically checking these notes for content and ideas.

**Homework & Quizzes:** You will be required to answer critical reading and viewing questions. You will also be periodically quizzed on these course materials.

**Projects:** Using technology, you will be required to develop a multi-media project based on your analysis of a film and present your work to the class. You may also choose to develop a project rather than a paper for your final course assignment for the semester.

**Writing Assignments:** You are required to write 2 essays per term based on your analysis of the works we cover in class. These essays will be submitted in MLA format. You may choose to write an essay as your final course assignment for the semester.

Late Work