

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

### CONTEMPORARY NOVELS (.5 credit)

Grades: 9-12

For this course, students will read a set of novels and novellas that were written during the twentieth century and reflect themes common to contemporary literature, such as the ability of the human spirit to rise above seemingly-impossible circumstances. Through creative projects and writing assignments, students will identify and analyze each novel's themes and also compare and contrast the novels' treatment of common themes. Please note that, like most contemporary literature, the novels assigned for this course contain realistic situations and language. In addition to the novels listed, each student will read another contemporary novel of his or her choosing that the instructor must approve. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation is required on all papers submitted. The following novels are read during this course.

- Picture Bride By Yoshiko Uchida
- Night By Elie Weisel
- To Kill a Mockingbird By Harper Lee
- Fallen Angels By Walter Dean Myers
- The Old Man and The Sea By Ernest Hemingway
- Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption  
By Stephen King

### CREATIVE WRITING (.5 credit)

Grades: 9-12

For many hundreds of years, literature has been one of the most important human art forms. It allows us to give voice to our emotions, create imaginary worlds, express ideas, and escape the confines of material reality. Through creative writing, we can come to understand ourselves and our world a little bit better. This course provides students with a solid grounding in the writing process, from finding inspiration to building a basic story to using complicated literary techniques and creating strange hybrid forms of poetic prose and prose poetry. By the end of this course, students will learn how to discover their creative thoughts and turn those ideas into fully realized pieces of creative writing.

### GOTHIC LITERATURE: Monster Stories (.5 credit)

Grades: 9-12

It was a dark and stormy night, and the vampires, ghouls, and undead were on the prowl... Gothic Literature is riddled with the spooky, but did you know that this genre is so much more than a scary form of entertainment? In Gothic Literature, you'll learn about how some of the world's greatest authors from the 19th century through today used Gothic elements to tackle issues that needed serious attention: the class system, gender norms, racism, social injustice, and more! Grab your monster gear and explore why Gothic literature has retained its appeal even with today's audiences.

**JOURNALISM (.5 credit)****Grades: 9-12**

Understanding the role of the free press in America helps us to be better informed and more able to analyze media. In this course, you will explore the history of journalism in the United States from its inception in the colonies and its key role in the first amendment, all the way up to present day issues regarding “right to know” and the changing landscape of journalistic media in the 21st century. You will acquire the skills and information needed to actively participate in the consumption, analysis, and creation of news media and will have the opportunity to investigate the constantly evolving career opportunities within the field of journalism.

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS: An Exploration of the Films & Their Literary Influences (.5 credit)****Grades: 9-12**

The Lord of the Rings is one of the most popular stories in the modern world. In this course, you will study the movie versions of J.R.R. Tolkien’s novel and learn about the process of converting literature to film. You will explore fantasy literature as a genre and critique the three Lord of the Rings films.

**Required Materials:** *You will be required to own or have access to the standard (non-extended) versions of the three Lord of the Rings films. Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES will not provide the films for this course. If you do not already have access to these movies, you may consider other sources such as your local library.*

- *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*
- *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
- *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*

**THEATRE STUDIES (.5 credit)****Grades: 9-12**

Have you ever wondered how a play goes from the playwright’s mind all the way into a multi- million dollar Broadway production? In this course, you’ll learn the whole process! This course provides a thorough introduction to the theater by providing an overview of major topics in theater studies, with a blend of theoretical and practical lessons. In the first half of this course you will learn about the definitions of theater, theater history, and contemporary theatrical genres. The second half of the course will guide you through all of the elements of putting on a professional theatrical production. You will learn about the entire production process, from playwriting through opening night, including elements of technical theater, the rehearsal process, and audience response. Whether you’re an aspiring actor, technician, director, or producer, or even just an avid theater-goer, this course is for you.