

HONR 3701A - Honors Seminar Humanities Fine Arts Harry Potter

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41921,

Credit hours: 1

Instructor

Angela Messenger

Email: ajbarwick@ysu.edu

Professional Qualifications:

Master of Arts, English, Youngstown State University, 2002

Bachelor of Arts, Professional Writing & Editing, Youngstown State University, 2001

Bachelor of Science, Combined Science (Biology concentration), Youngstown State University, 2001

Office: Maag Library, 173 (within the Writing Center, room 171)

Phone: (330)941-1781

Course Description

3701A. Honors Seminar Humanities Fine Arts Harry Potter. A critical investigation of selected areas underlying civilization, embracing and integrating the particular studies of science, society, and the humanities. Prereq.: Eligibility for the Honors Program. 1-2 s.h.

This course will examine the Harry Potter novels, including *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, and other material created by J.K. Rowling. Discussions may include her work under pseudonyms such as Robert Galbraith. The class will explore cultural topics related to the novels and films, including *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Optional	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Rowling, JK	978-0590353427
Optional	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets	Rowling, JK	978-0439420105
Optional	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban	Rowling, JK	978-0439136365
Optional	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire	Rowling, JK	978-0439139601
Optional	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix	Rowling, JK	978-0439358071
Optional	Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince	Rowling, JK	978-0439791328
Optional	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows	Rowling, JK	978-0545139700
Optional	The Tales of Beedle the Bard	Rowling, JK	978-1338125689
Optional	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them	Scamander, Newt	978-0439321600
Optional	Quidditch Through the Ages	Whisp, Kennilworthy	978-0439321617
Optional	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them	Rowling, JK	978-1338109061
Optional	Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald	Rowling, JK	978-1338263893
Optional	Fantastic Beasts: Secrets of Dumbledore	Rowling, JK & Steve Kloves	978-1338853681
Optional	Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts One and Two	Thorne, Jack	978-1338216660

Students taking this course may have read the *Harry Potter* books. I urge students to re-read them (or listen to the audio books). Students are welcome to use personal copies, and the public libraries should have copies.

Students may have seen the eight *HP* films. You may wish to view the films and/or read the screenplays of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, *Crimes of Grindewald*, and *The Secrets of Dumbledore*. If there are books/films that you have not read/seen, there may be spoilers.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Thu	8/27		Introductions / House Sorting / Syllabus Distribution (Last day for Adds/Change grading options 8/31/26); Regal Cinema South and Niles have showtimes for the HP Films 8/27-9/3/26	In class, submit a survey.
Thu	9/3		Review Quidditch Rules / Select Captains / Discuss team positions (Last day for 100% Refund 9/6/26)	
Thu	9/10		Quidditch – Harrison Field (in Smoky Hollow across from the MVR)	Register at the link: https://ysu.dserec.com/online/eventsr/events/calendar
Thu	9/17		Quidditch MVP Voting	In class, complete questions about the rhetorical context surrounding the release of the HP books/films.
Thu	9/24		Review Project Options	
Thu	10/1		Establishing a timeline of HP books/films	Schedule an instructor conference (outside of class time) through SignUpGenius (TBA)
Thu	10/8		Harry Potter Book Day	Project Proposal Due
Thu	10/15			Go to your scheduled conference time
Thu	10/22		(Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" is 10/25/26.)	Sign up for presentations (SignUpGenius)
Thu	10/29	Read and Discuss: Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.	You do not need to read anything in advance. We can read the play aloud.	Bring a copy of the book if you have it, but the instructor will provide some.
Thu	11/5		Presentations	In-class you also have to review 1 presentation.
Thu	11/12		Presentations	In-class you also have to review 1 presentation.
Thu	11/19		Presentations	In-class you also have to review 1 presentation.
Thu	11/26		Thanksgiving Break, no classes held	
Thu	12/3		End of year Feast	Projects Due
Thu	12/10		Because this is a 1-credit seminar, the final exam time is technically 3:15-5:15pm on Friday, 12/11/26	Pick up graded materials

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.