



Syllabus

Course Title: Harry Potter on the Page and on the Screen

Program and Date: London Maymester, May 16 - 30, 2026

Academic Department: English

Instructor Name: Dr. John Alberti

Instructor Email and Phone: alberti@nku.edu; (859) 572-5578

Get to Know Your Professor

London has been one of my favorite places on the planet since I first visited over forty years ago. I have been sharing my love for London with students in the CCSA program since the 1990s, and I believe that study abroad is an essential and life-changing experience for any student. A California native, I earned my PhD at UCLA and have been teaching at NKU since 1991. One of the things I love about being an English professor is being able to teach and write about all my cultural interests, from American literature to pop music to romantic comedies to, of course, the Harry Potter series. This will be my sixth time teaching Harry Potter on the Page and on the Screen, and it's a magical experience every time!

Course Description

You've read the books and seen the movies. Now explore the process of turning novels into films and the place of the Harry Potter phenomenon in contemporary British culture. In our course, we will discuss the complexities involved in narrative adaptation to the medium of movies, while experiencing the places that inspired the books and provided unforgettable locations for the films. Field trips to such places as Oxford University, Kew Gardens, and the Globe Theatre are designed to deepen your understanding of the cultural and historical context of the Potter novels. And a tour of the Harry Potter exhibit at Warner Bros. London studios will be a highlight, illustrating the technical aspects of movie production. Muggles and wizards welcome!

Course Level and Credit Hours

Lower or upper division undergraduate level. May count towards general education requirements at your school. Three credit hours.

Prerequisite(s)

For Upper Division credit, students must have completed the minimum written composition requirements at their home institution or receive consent of instructor.



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Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

- Demonstrate their enhanced critical understanding of the significance of popular narratives developed by experiencing the specific social and artistic culture of London and Great Britain
- Display an enhanced understanding of the importance and influence of place in the creation of literary and movie narratives
- Effectively use key terms and concepts in the analysis of movies and literature
- Write critically about movie adaptation using these terms and concepts

Required Readings and Materials

All seven Harry Potter novels.
All eight Harry Potter movies.
Alberti, John, and P. Andrew Miller. "Introduction: Harry Potter and the Magical Screen" (available on the class Canvas site)

Assignments and Grades

The final grade will be assessed as follows:

	Points
Writing Assignments: Before Leaving	
500-word response and analysis of each book and movie	225
Writing Assignments: In London	
Three journal entries per week (total of six) about your experiences and how they connect to the focus of the course.	90
Writing Assignment: After Return	
Essay argument about the adaptation of a particular scene from a book into a movie based on our class discussions and your experiences traveling and studying in London, as well as at least three critical sources .	150
Class Discussion	
Lead class discussion about an assigned novel and its film adaptation	35
Total	500



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Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

Scale:

A	450+
B	400-449
C	350-399
D	300-349

Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will likely include the following site visits. This is a tentative list, which will be replaced with a detailed daily itinerary of class meetings and field trips prior to the departure date.

- A walking tour of book and movie locations around London
- A trip to Oxford to tour Harry Potter locations in Oxford
- The Harry Potter set tour at Warner Bros. studios
- Attending *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, Parts One and Two
- Trip to the London Zoo
- Trip to Kew Gardens
- Trip to Globe Theatre

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings, as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.

Failure to attend class meetings or field trips can result in a grade deduction per absence. In addition to our scheduled field trips and CCSA whole group trips, I hope to include some additional cultural events.

Academic Integrity Policy

As with all college classes, we operate under the assumption that all work that you turn in for credit is your own and not copied or plagiarized from another. All references to other sources should be acknowledged. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in a significant lowering of your final grade or failure of the course.

Physical Expectations

The program requires walking 3-5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags and belongings.



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Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student, or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Statement about Final Syllabus

Please note that all CCSA syllabi are subject to change, but every effort will be made to ensure participants receive notice of such changes in a timely manner.