

English 489.002 (23079), Independent Study: Agnieszka Holland's Filmed Adaptations: Identify and Motifs / Instructor: Gerald Duchovnay

Description:

Independent studies most often develop as a result of a student's desire to continue studies pursued in a course or a new interest that is not accommodated by normal course offerings. This independent study has developed as a result of an interest in synthesizing literary studies with film and film theory as related to filmed adaptations. This independent study will involve, then, an understanding of the films of Agnieszka Holland.

Plan of Study: The student and I will meet and discuss the readings and the writings on the topic of Agnieszka Holland's films once every two weeks and will link it to both discussion and analysis of the films and the critical material (scholarly materials, reviews) available on Agnieszka Holland's films. Since this is an independent study, the student will work on readings and writings suitable to what might be taught in a film class focusing on a particular filmmaker.

Objectives:

- 1) To achieve an overview and understanding of the films of Agnieszka Holland's adapted films;
- 2) To understand the critical reception of Agnieszka Holland's films;
- 3) To prepare a text suitable for a conference presentation focusing on motifs or themes in one of Holland's filmed adaptations (other than *Europa Europa*);
- 4) To prepare a draft of a scholarly article on Holland's *Europa, Europa*.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Student will demonstrate an understanding of key aspects of Agnieszka Holland's films via discussion and a selective annotated bibliography of materials on Holland's work;
2. Student will demonstrate skills in visual literacy related to Agnieszka Holland's filmed texts by writing a paper suitable for a conference presentation;
3. Student will demonstrate skills in visual literacy related to Agnieszka Holland's filmed texts by writing a draft of a scholarly article on the film *Europa Europa*.

Required Work:

- 1) A selective annotated bibliography of scholarly and critical materials and reviews related to some of Agnieszka Holland's films.
- 2) A paper (approximately 20-24 pages, suitable for submission for publication) examining Holland's holocaust film *Europa Europa* and her portrayal of Jewish identity.
- 3) A paper of approximately 10 pages, edited and prepared for conference presentation), examining one or more of Holland's methods, motifs, and themes within one of her film adaptations (*Angry Harvest*, *In Darkness*, or others).

By doing this research and applying it to at least one film for a scholarly paper and one for a conference presentation, the student will go from a general understanding of

Agnieszka Holland's films, to a fuller understanding of the filmmaker's craft and themes.