

English 689.003 (83246), Independent Study: Film and Literature  
Fall 2013 / 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 literary adaptations to film.

**Plan of Study:** The student and I will meet twice a week, related to the undergraduate film class, and discuss the readings and the writings on the topic of film adaptations. Since this is an independent study, the student will work on readings and writings suitable to what might be taught in a literature and film undergraduate course, but being studied at a graduate level.

**Objectives:**

- 1) To achieve an overview and understanding of the ideas related to adaptation of literature to film;
- 2) To understand how texts, fiction in particular, is adapted to the screen;
- 3) To examine adaptation processes by applying them to an examination of a particular filmed version (or versions) of a literary text;
- 4) To complete a sustained written text based on these objectives;

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Student will demonstrate an understanding of key aspects of adaptation theory of texts to film;
2. Student will demonstrate analytical skills in visual literacy and reading filmed texts;
3. Student will demonstrate a familiarity with ways of discussing and evaluating films as reflections of cultures and source texts based on presentation of materials;
4. Student will demonstrate an understanding of the elements involved in adapting texts to film;
5. Student may participate in a "community" interested in discussing/analyzing films beyond the surface level of narrative or character.

**Required Work:**

- 1) Two documented papers, approximately 10-12 pages each, applying some of the theories related to aspects of film adaptation to an examination of a particular filmed text. Each paper will focus on a different filmed text.
- 2) A presentation and discussion of an adapted text to an undergraduate film and literature class.
- 3) Participating and engaging in the requirements for an undergraduate film and literature class, but done at a level suitable for graduate work, as seen, for example, in longer, documented papers.

By doing this work and applying it to films that has been adapted to the screen, the student will go from the general (theory) to the more specific (adaptation of a text), to the very specific (application of theory and text to specific film). The focus, then, will be to merge readings with practical application.