

English 489.001 (83069), Independent Study: Filmed Adaptations
Fall 2014 / Gerald Duchovnay
Office Hours: TH 10-11; 12:15-1:45. Other times by appointment. Or via email.
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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 those enrolled desiring to continue their examination of film studies and theory in a way not currently offered to them in the current course offerings. The students in this independent study will continue their studies in order to develop a fuller understanding of literary adaptations to film, film theory, and film criticism.

Plan of Study: The students will meet and discuss their readings, films, and the notion of filmed adaptations approximately once a week during the semester. The students will work on their readings and writings, with guidance from me about some of the more authoritative works to read and appropriate films; they will consult the instructor as they work through viewings of films and written documents and others in the film community on campus.

Objectives:

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

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will develop an awareness of a key selection of adapted films;
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of film concepts (i.e., the "grammar of film") related to films viewed, readings, and discussions;
3. Students will produce texts that demonstrate visual literacy (essays, responses, oral commentaries) beyond the surface level of narrative and character.

Written Work: There will be three texts for this independent study:

- 1) An annotated bibliography of books and essays related to theoretical and practical aspects of the process of converting a particular text to film and the critical response to one or more filmed adaptations.
- 2) A paper (approximately 10-12 pages) applying some of the theories related to film adaptation to one filmed text.
- 3) An oral presentation of the back story to the filmed adaptation and its reception.

By doing this research and applying it to one film 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 theory with practical application. Also, as a result of this research, the student has the opportunity to teach classes related to adaptation, thus bringing together the theoretical, practical, and pedagogical.

Evaluations: Grades will be determined by written responses (20%), formal paper (60%), annotated bibliography (15%). Minor adjustments (5%) to these percentages may be made to the responses/annotated bibliography depending upon the number of responses written, and other designated assignments.

Plagiarism/Academic Honesty: Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]).

Our word plagiarism is derived from a word that means "to kidnap." Plagiarism is a form of kidnapping someone else's ideas, opinions, arguments, or research, and presenting them (it) as your own. Plagiarism "includes (but is not limited to) failure to indicate the source with quotation marks or footnotes or internal documentation where appropriate if any of the following are reproduced in the work submitted: 1. a phrase, written or musical; 2. a graphic element; 3. a proof; 4. specific language; 5. an idea derived from the work, published or unpublished, of another person or group.

Much of the confusion and unintentional dishonesty in undergraduate papers results from ignorance or carelessness with regard to attribution of sources. When you borrow from what others have said, you are obligated to acknowledge your sources. We all solicit opinions about our writing from family, friends, or colleagues. Your indebtedness to others for sharing substantive ideas with you about your papers or for reading and commenting on them can be indicated in an acknowledgements page accompanying each formal assignment. If you go beyond conversations with friends or colleagues to other outside sources, you need to acknowledge these sources in your paper and in a Works Cited section. If you are uncertain about your documentation, please see me before you submit the paper. Intentional plagiarism will result in a zero for the work and other appropriate disciplinary action.

Common Decency: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. You are requested to turn off your cell phones before entering the classroom. Common courtesy says you do not receive or answer calls during class. And no text messaging, tweeting, or Facebook exchanges during class. If you are expecting an emergency call, please let me know ahead of time, put your phone on vibrator mode, and sit close to the exit so you can leave discreetly to take the call. Ipads, laptops, and smartphones are okay, as long as they are being used for class activities.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services / Texas A&M
University-Commerce /Gee Library, Room 132 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903)
886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148

The Writing Center. The Writing Center is dedicated to helping writers take advantage of all opportunities for learning related to the writing process; to that end, the Center can assist writers at any stage of the writing process. In addition to your instructor, this is the place to go for additional assistance with your reading and writing projects at TAMU-Commerce. The Center can help you with your papers and digital texts for your classes. The Center has two locations: (1) on the ground floor of the Hall of Languages (room 103), and (2) in the Gee Library. To schedule an appointment, come to HL 103 or call (903) 886-5280, or check out the hours and location at the Gee Library.

Textbooks: *Oxford Guide to Film Studies*. Ed. Jonathan Hill and Pamela Church.
Oxford UP, 1998. ISBN: 13: 978-0198711247
McMilligan, Patrick. *Alfred Hitchcock*. New York: Harper Collins, 2003.
ISBN: 9780060988272

Schedule of Readings

Wk 1, Aug 26 Course Introduction

Read for next time:

AH: 3-107; OGFS: 3-10, 11-30, 354-364

Wk 2, Sept. 2 Looking/Seeing Hitchcock

Read for next time: AH: 111-153; OGFS: 176-189; 195-201,501-509

Wk 3, Sept. 9

Read for next time: AH: 154-230; OGFS: 272-288, 190-194

Wk 4, Sept. 16

Read for next time: AH: 234-290; OGFS: 227-237, 77-90

Wk 5, Sept. 23

Read for next time: AH: 291-396; OGFS: 342-353, 371-381

Wk 6, Sept. 30

Read for next time: AH: 399-472; OGFS: 310-326, 245-254

Wk 7, Oct 7

Read for next time: AH: 475-564; OGFS: 327-341

Wk 8, Oct. 14

Read for next time: AH: 565-601; OGFS: 36-42, 202-211

Wk 9, Oct. 21

Read for next time: AH: 605-695; OGFS: 30-35, 51-57

Wk 10, Oct. 28

Read for next time: AH: 696-745; OGFS: 310-326, 212-223

Wk 11, Nov.4

Read for next time: AH: 746-750; OGFS: 289-309

Wk 12, Nov. 11

Discussion of filmed adaptations/ Reading TBA

Wk 13, Nov. 18

Discussion of particular film/ Reading TBA

Wk 14, Nov. 25

Annotated Bibliography Due

Wk 15, Dec. 2--Paper Due

Wk 16 Finals Week--TBA