

Film and Literature

Course description

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Objectives:

The course aims to explore how character development, plot, narrative, symbols, and language are translated from literary texts to film, and considers the limitations of the film adaptation. Students read, analyze, and respond critically to literature and films in class discussions and presentations.

Tentative syllabus:

1. 22 Sept: Introduction to the course (theory of film adaptations)
2. 29 Sept: Film adaptation of Much Ado About Nothing (Much Ado About Nothing, 2013); The Taming of the Shrew (10 Things I Hate About You, 1999)
3. 6 Oct: Film adaptations of The Scarlet Letter (The Scarlet Letter, 1995; Easy A, 2010)
4. 13 Oct: Film adaptation of Great Expectations (Great Expectations, 2012); Film adaptations of Emma (Clueless, 1995/Emma, 2020)
5. 20 Oct: Film adaptations of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (Alice in Wonderland, 2010; Alice Through the Looking Glass, 2016)
6. 27 Oct: Film adaptations of Mary Poppins (Mary Poppins Returns, 2018); Film adaptation of The Great Gatsby (The Great Gatsby, 2013)
7. 3 Nov: Film adaptation of The Princess Bride (The Princess Bride, 1987); Film adaptation of The Neverending Story (The Neverending Story, 1984)
8. 10 Nov: Film adaptations of Sleeping Beauty (Maleficent 2014/ 2019); Film adaptation of The Hundred and One Dalmatians (Cruella, 2021)
9. 17 Nov: Day of Freedom and Democracy
10. 24 Nov: Film adaptation of Story of Your Life (Arrival, 2016); Film adaptation of All you Need is Kill (The Edge of Tomorrow, 2014)
11. 1 Dec: Film adaptation of I, Robot (I, Robot, 2004); Film adaptation of Gone Girl (Gone Girl, 2014)
12. 8 Dec: Film adaptation of Inherent Vice (Inherent Vice, 2014); Film adaptation of Trainspotting (Trainspotting, 1996)
13. 15 Dec: Film adaptation of The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, 2009); Film adaptation of Fight Club (Fight Club, 1999)

Requirements:

- ✚ **Regular class attendance:** You cannot miss more than two classes.
- ✚ **Active participation in the seminars:** You have to take part in the discussion following each presentation (share your opinion and experience)
- ✚ During the term, you have to prepare **two presentations**. You can get a maximum of 50 points for each presentation, for a total of 100 points.

Evaluation criteria of the presentation:

- Informativeness (10 points) – do you clearly communicate the topic, is the flow of information logical, and do you manage time wisely?
- Analysis (10 points) – are you able to explore how character development, plot, narrative, symbols, and language are translated from literary texts to film? Can you consider the limitations of the film adaptation of the chosen literary work?
- Literature (10 points) – you have to use at least 5 pieces of literature.
- Visuality (10 points) – Do you select relevant film scenes for your analysis?
- Attitude (10 points) – Do you speak clearly, make eye contact, and involve the audience in your presentation?

Each presentation should last 30 minutes. Each presentation is followed by a 10-minute discussion.

Evaluation:

If you fail to obtain 50 points during the term, you have to write a 3-page long essay on the film adaptation of a chosen literary work. In this case, you have to support your thoughts with sources from the recommended literature below. The deadline for sending this essay is **31 December**.

Recommended literature:

Martinich Al P. *The Philosophy of Language*. New York: OUP, 2008.

McFarlane, Brian. *Novel to Film*. OUP, 1996.

Miller, Toby, and Robert Stam. *A Companion to Film Theory*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.

Welsh, James M., and Peter Lev. *The Literature/Film Reader: Issues of Adaptation*. Lanham: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2007.

Enjoy the course! ☺

