

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

ENGL 34643 Literature and Film

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory or other types of Hours:

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 10203 Composition II or HUMN 26603 Introduction to Film

Effective Catalog: 2023-2024

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A comparative study of films and theoretical interpretations of film, with special attention to literary adaptations. The course explores how character development, plot, narrative, symbols, and language are translated from literary texts to film, and considers the limitations as well as creative possibilities of film adaptation. In addition, the course explores how historical and cultural location impact the subject, form, and content of films.

B. Additional Information

Because of limited class viewing time, students will be required to subscribe to Netflix or another commercial rental company in order to obtain copies of the films for viewing. Can be repeated twice, when topics vary.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Use various literary and cinematic terms to discuss, interpret, and analyze representative texts.
2. Analyze, critique, and evaluate films as literary texts.
3. Apply critical reading of films as texts and use a style appropriate for academic discourse by writing multi-page essays.
4. Summarize how the political, socio-cultural, and historical contexts of literature translate into film making and analysis.
5. Synthesize connections between individual texts and a variety of literary and cinematic interpretations.

6. Critique the success of the adaptation and techniques used to move from page to screen.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the cultural context to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Film History and Techniques
- B. Literary and Cultural Studies Analysis of Film
- C. Literary Adaptations