



English 2027F Literature and Film: Issues of Adaptation

Department of English and Cultural Studies | Huron University College |

Instructor: Adrian Mioc

Email: amioc2@uwo.ca (Office UC 3314)

Class: Tue 2:30-3:30 (HC-V207)

Thu 3:30-5:30 (HC-V207)

Office Hours: Wed 1:30-3:30 pm

Course Description:

“So, which is better: the book or the movie?” The answer seems to always be the same, yet this fallacious question has become the cornerstone of modern adaptation discourse. Our objective for this course will be to reframe the ways that we consider and discuss adaptations, from text to film and beyond. In this course, we will focus on film and literature that depict key social, psychological, political and philosophical instances from different cultures and traditions. Specifically, we will examine how film and literature attempt to capture, represent and explore themes like paranoia and trauma, guilt and punishment, identity and social reality. The scope of our discussions will range from gaining insight and understanding into the workings of these media, to examining particular passages and scenes. Instead of considering adaptation as a ‘lit-centric’ field, one in which the value of a film is based on its ‘fidelity’ to the text, we will also look at the ways that both film and literature expose both their biases and their strengths; both turning out to be the products of various influences, including each other. And you’re getting the chance to (re-)watch great movies for credit. What can beat that?

Course Objectives:

- Students will develop a critical vocabulary of film/cinematic techniques in order to understand how films work and to interpret films intelligently.
- Students will develop an intellectual and cultural understanding of how practical and theoretical ideas operate between the genres of cinema and literature.
- Students will identify central literary and cinematic innovations and tendencies of the modern war/post-war periods through the contemporary (i.e., 1930s-present).
- Students will develop a complex understanding of the social, historical, and cultural context of the films and literature under study.
- Students will work on and develop their critical reading and critical thinking skills through intensive engagement with a variety of traditional print and multimedia texts across multiple genres (including literature, film studies, political philosophy, literary and cultural theory).
- Students will develop sophisticated written and oral research and argumentative skills through the creation and presentation of short analytical response papers, periodic examinations, and intensive research term papers.

- Students will enhance their writing and critical thinking skills by completing revisions of analytical papers.
- Students will understand the differences and commonalities of how film and literature work to represent nuances of gender, sexuality, politics, psychology, and identity (as being explored by the filmmakers and writers under discussion).

Required Movies:

Fight Club (1999)
No Country for Old Men (2007)
Throne of Blood (1957)
The Usual Suspects (1995)
Life of Pi (2012)
The Shawshank Redemption (1994)

Required Texts:

Chuck Palahniuk *Fight Club* (1996)
 Cormac McCarthy *No Country for Old Men* (2005)
 William Shakespeare *Macbeth*
 Yan Martel *Life of Pi* (2001)
 Stephen King *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* (1982)

Critical Works:

Deborah Cartmell (ed.) *A Companion to Literature, Film, and Adaptation* (2012)
 James M. Welch, *The Literature Film Reader: Issues of Adaptation*, (2007)
 Katja Krebs, *Translation and Adaptation in Theatre and Film* (2013)
 Paula Baldwin Lind, *Telling and Re-Telling Stories: Studies on Literary Adaptation to Film* (2016)
 Julie Grossman, *Literature, Film, and Their Hideous Progeny: Adaptation and ElastiTEXTity* (2015)
 Thomas Leitch, *Film Adaptation and Its Discontents: From Gone with the Wind to The Passion of the Christ* (2009)
 (all as pdf on OWL)

Assignments:

Film Review 15% (3 pages double-spaced) DUE Sept 30 OR Oct 28
 Prose Response 15% (3 pages double-spaced) DUE Sept 30 OR Oct 28
 Research Paper 25% (6 pages double-spaced) DUE Dec 2
 Attendance and Participation 15% (ongoing)
 Exam 30% (to be scheduled by Registrar)

Any students unable to attend synchronous class sessions due to international travel restrictions must identify themselves to Academic Advising and the instructor. An alternative assessment rubric may be developed.

Notes on Assignments:

All writing assignments must be submitted to OWL under “Assignments” so that the submission’s originality can be verified to be free of plagiarism using TURNITIN. Paper submissions will not be accepted. Either the prose response or the film review must be submitted by Jan 30th. Whichever of the two not submitted on Sept 30th must be submitted on Oct 28th.

Film Review or Film Response | 3 Pages | 15% |

Students are asked to write a response that is no shorter than 3 double-spaced pages to one of the films screened for the class. The response must be organized around an original thesis statement and be based on a close reading of the text discussed. Response must meet the formatting requirements of MLA (<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/MLA8th.pdf>). Additional sources are **NOT** required but students are encouraged to read the required critical works.

Prose Response | 3 Pages | 15% |

Students are asked to write a response that is no shorter than 3 double-spaced pages to one of the long works of prose assigned in the class. The response must be organized around an original thesis statement and be based on a close reading of the text discussed. Response must meet the formatting requirements of MLA (<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/MLA8th.pdf>). Additional sources are **NOT** required but students are encouraged to read the required critical works.

Research Paper | 6 pages | 25% |

Students are asked to write a research paper that compares and/or contrasts one film and one prose work studied in the course. The paper must be organized around an original thesis statement, include **THREE** references to scholarly publications, and feature close readings of the film and the book chosen. Papers must meet the formatting requirements of MLA. (<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/MLA8th.pdf>).

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Sept 9 Introduction

Week 2

Sept 14, 16
Fight Club (1999)

Week 3

Sept 21, 23
Chuck Palahniuk *Fight Club*

Week 4 **Film Review or Prose Response DUE Sept 30**

Sept 28, 30

No Country for Old Men (2007)

Week 5

Oct 5, 7

Cormac McCarthy *No Country for Old Men*

Week 6

Oct 12, 14

William Shakespeare *Macbeth*

Week 7

Oct 19, 21

Throne of Blood (1957)

Week 8 **Film Review or Prose Response DUE Oct 28**

Oct 26, 28

The Usual Suspects (1995)

Week 9

Reading Week

Week 10

Nov 9, 11

Life of Pi (2012)

Week 11

Nov 16, 18

Yan Martel *Life of Pi* (2001)

Week 12

Nov 23, 25

Stephen King *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*

Week 13

Nov 30 Dec 2 **Research Paper DUE Dec 2**
The Shawshank Redemption (1994)

Week 14

Dec 7 Conclusion



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Pandemic Contingency

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, typically using a combination of synchronous instruction (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) and asynchronous material (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor. In the unlikely event that changes to the grading scheme are necessary, these changes will be clearly communicated as soon as possible.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. The

appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has

already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at:
<https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here:
<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>
Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>
Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca
Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca
Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.