

Honors 185C: The Art of Literary Adaptation (Fall 2017)
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Office hours: Thursday 3-5:30pm; and by appointment

Texts

* available through UVM bookstore; name or term in **bold** designates identification of source under Daily Reading

(1) Linda **Seger**, *The Art of Adaptation: Turning Fact and Fiction into Film*

Publisher: Owl Books ISBN-10: 0805016260 / ISBN-13: 978-0805016260

(2) Shakespeare, **Hamlet**

Publisher: Norton ISBN-10: 0393929582 / ISBN-13: 978-0-393-92958-4

(3) Tom **Stoppard**, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

Publisher: Grove Press ISBN-10: 0802132758 / ISBN-13: 978-0802132758

(4) Annie **Proulx** et al., *Brokeback Mountain: Story to Screenplay*

Publisher: Scribner ISBN-10: 0743294165 / ISBN-13: 978-0743294164

(5) Bryony **Lavery**, *Frozen*

Publisher: Dramatists Play Service ISBN-10: 082221945X / ISBN-13: 978-0822219453

(6) Course **Packet**

(7) class **Handouts** / postings to **Blackboard** / video **Screenings**: as listed on syllabus or otherwise announced

Requirements (for fuller descriptions, see Blackboard under “Syllabus and Requirements”)

- (1) Course Writing: specific guidelines (topics, due dates, etc.) as announced (80%)
 - a) Creative Work (50%)
 - b) Critical / Analytical Writing (30%)
- (2) Participation (20%)

DAILY READINGS (what is listed is what will be covered in class on that day)

8/29 Course Introduction

INTRODUCTORY UNIT: Adaptation as Creative and Critical Practice

8/31/ Finding a Story / Telling a Story

Seger ch. 5

Packet

a) Basics of Storytelling

b) Pitch Example: the Death of Falstaff

Blackboard Course Materials / Assignments / Pitch Portfolio / Guidelines

9/5 The character(s) in the story; the story of the character(s)

Seger ch. 6

Blackboard J. K. Rowling, “Epilogue” to *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

9/7 Adaptation and New Media

Packet

a) Siobhan O’Flynn, *Epilogue to A Theory of Adaptation*

b) Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, chs. 1-8

Blackboard Course Materials / Readings and What-Not / *Pride and Prejudice* Meets Modern Technology: *Lizzie Bennet Diaries*, episodes 1-10, 27

* *I do want you to read the Austen material even if you already know the story because I want you to consider the specific process of adaptation involved in the creation of the web episodes, and if you don't re-read you may not remember the details of the original*

9/12 Adaptation via interpretation and / or application: two examples of biblical adaptation

Handouts Nancy Willard, "In Praise of ABC"; T. S. Eliot, "Journey of the Magi"

Packet Genesis 1; Matthew 2:1-12

9/14 A range of adaptive strategies

Packet

a) Thomas Leitch, "Between Adaptation and Allusion" (Leitch's presentation is based on film-adaptation, but the same basic strategies can apply to any medium)

b) Howard Schwartz, "Reimagining the Bible"

UNIT ONE: Adapting a play

9/19

Packet Woody Allen, *Death* (a play)

9/20 **Screening** Woody Allen, *Shadows and Fog*

9/21 Re-vision: seeing one's own work in a new light: Allen's *Shadows and Fog* as an adaptation of *Death*

Seeger Ch. 2

9/26 **Packet** Plato, "The Myth of the Cave"

Seeger Ch. 7

9/28 *Hamlet* Acts 1-2

10/3 *Hamlet* Acts 3-4

10/5 *Hamlet* Act 5

Packet

a) Sources of *Hamlet*: Saxo Grammaticus and Belleforest

b) T. S. Eliot, "Hamlet and His Problems"

10/10 Comic adaptation of tragedy

Stoppard Act 1

Seeger Ch. 8

Handouts "The Skinhead Hamlet"; "IMs of Romeo and Juliet"; "A Fast-food Shakespeare"

10/12 **Stoppard** cont. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* Act 2

10/17 **Stoppard** cont. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* Act 3

Packet "Existentialism"

Re-read Seeger Ch. 7

10/18 **Screening** *Party Down* (select episodes)

10/19 Workshop: Partying Down at Elsinore

UNIT TWO: Adapting (short-)fiction

10/24 Brokeback Mountain 1

Proulx Annie Proulx, “Brokeback Mountain” (the short story)

10/26 Brokeback Mountain 2

Proulx Larry McMurty and Diana Ossana, *Brokeback Mountain* (the screenplay)

Seeger Ch. 1

10/30 **Screening** Ang Lee, *Brokeback Mountain*

10/31 Brokeback Mountain 3

Proulx Annie Proulx, “Getting Movied”; Larry McMurty, “Adapting Brokeback Mountain”; Diana Ossana, “Climbing Brokeback Mountain”

11/2 Applying lessons learned

Packet Andre Dubus, “Killings”

11/6 **Screening** *In the Bedroom*

11/7 Workshop: “Killings”

UNIT THREE: Adapting non-fiction

11/9 Adaptation or Plagiarism

Lavery *Frozen* (full play)

Packet Malcolm Gladwell, “Something Borrowed”

11/13 **Screening** *Homicide: Life on the Streets* (documentary and episode)

11/14 discuss *Homicide: Life on the Streets*

Seeger Ch. 3

Packet Thomas Leitch, “Based on a True Story”

11/16 Creating a story from a source-text

Packet David Grann

a) “True Crime”

b) “The Chameleon”

11/28 Group Work

11/30 Group work

12/5 Group presentations

12/7 Group presentations