LIT 270L: Film as Lit; Lit as Film
Spring 2016
Phil Fandozzi
M/W 11:40-2:00
Office: LA 225
Hours: T/R: 1-2 or by appt.
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Course Description: We will study the relationship between literature and its cinematic adaptations. We will discuss their respective strengths and weaknesses in terms of character development, narrative techniques, and emotional impact. Readings will be a required number of short stories and novels that have been adapted into film. Selections will range over a variety of writing styles and topics and also different genres, from horror to epic/romance. Your full participation both in reading and discussion will be essential in making the course a success.

I  Texts:
  o  Don’t Look Now, Du Maurier (NYRB)
  o  The English Patient, Ondaatje (Vintage)
  o  The Unbearable Lightness of Being, Kundera (Harper & Row)
  o  Fight Club, Palahniuk (Norton)
  o  No Country For Old Men, McCarthy (Vintage)
  o  The Quiet American, Green (Penguin)
  o  The Big Sleep, Chandler (Vintage)

II  Reading/Viewing Assignments:
  1/25  Introduction to Course
  1/27  Film clips on adaptation; discussion of adaptive techniques.
  2/1   Read The Birds for discussion. (Don’t Look Now, text)
  2/3   Introduction and Showing of “The Birds”
  2/8   Discussion of film and novel
  2/10  Read The English Patient, Chapters I-V for discussion
  2/15  Presidents’ Day; no class
  2/17  Read The English Patient, Chapters VI-X
  2/22  Introduction and Showing of “The English Patient”
  2/24  Discussion of film and novel
  2/29  Read Don’t Look Now for discussion
  3/2   Introduction and Showing of “Don’t Look Now”
  3/7   Discussion of film and short story
  3/9   Read Unbearable Lightness of Being, Parts One-Three for discussion
  3/14  Read Parts Four- Seven for discussion
  3/16  Introduction and Showing of “Unbearable Lightness of Being”
  3/21  Discussion of film and novel
  3/23  Read The Quiet American for discussion
3/30  Discussion of film and novel
4/4-8  Spring Break!
4/11  Read *No Country for Old Men* for discussion
4/13  Introduction and Showing of “No Country for Old Men”
4/18  Discussion of film and short story
4/20  Read *Fight Club* for discussion
4/25  Introduction and Showing of “Fight Club”
5/27  Discussion of film and novel
5/2  Read selections from *The Big Sleep* and watch “The Big Sleep”
5/4  Discussion of film, Review and Class Evaluations

III. Written Assignments:
1. A short essay (2 pages) on each film/lit pair after our discussions of the films and literature, based on film/reading schedule. Topics to be announced
2. A term essay (7-8 printed pages) on one of the pairs of lit/film in the course. Due April 20th; topics will be discussed.

IV. Grading:
Grades will be based on the three written assignments above and your attendance and participation, according to the following percentages:
- Quizzes– 30%
- Essay– 30%
- Final Exam– 30%
- Attendance/Participation– 10%

More than two absences and/or repeated tardiness will lower your grade.

This class will use the +/- grading system.

V. Outcomes:
1. To analyze and articulate the various aspects of film adaptation.
2. To evaluate film adaptations in terms of narrative and cinematography in their historical context.
3. To comprehend the limitations of “fidelity;” to develop arguments conveying the strength and weaknesses of the novel and film.

VI. This class is open to otherwise qualified students with disabilities. To request a reasonable modification of this syllabus, please consult with the instructor. For more information, go to http://www.umt.edu/disability