

Saint Louis University, Madrid
ENGL-332 Modern European Literature and Film

Schedule Summer I

Professor Marjory Hutchison

English Dept. Office, Top Floor, 34 Avenida del Valle

Office hours: TR 16:00-17:00

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Course Description

From the written word to the moving image. This course examines works from world literature, and their film adaptations. Study of each literature/film combination begins with analysis of the literature itself, focusing on questions of narrative technique, genre, and theme. Attention then shifts to the adaptation of these literary elements into the visual and audible medium of film. Special emphasis will be given to issues of psychology, social trends, and historical background as transferred from literary text to screen. Questions to guide our work: What is the *essence* of the literary work? And of the screen version? What is lost/gained in the transformation? What different elements are emphasized or omitted in the film version? How does our position as reader/audience change from one artistic medium to the other?

Course Objectives

To enable students to understand two different narrative systems; to analyze the processes of transposition between the two systems; and to practise a range of critical and theoretical approaches to the process of adaptation, with particular related to the current society. To improve students' writing skills in literary analysis through primary and secondary readings, class discussion, written assignments, and essay examinations..

Required texts

William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*

Edith Wharton, *the Age of Innocence*

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground* (in course reader)

James Joyce, *Dubliners* (in course reader)

Colette, "Gigi" (in course reader)

EITHER Irvine Welsh, *Trainspotting* OR Daphne du Maurier, 'The Birds'

Course Reading Packet (available at SLU Bookstore)

Films (screenings in class every Monday and Wednesday)

The Turn of the Screw, director Ben Bolt

Notes from Underground, director David Wall

The Dead, director John Huston

Throne of Blood, director Kurosawa

Gigi, director Vincente Minnelli

The Age of Innocence, director Martin Scorsese

Great Expectations, director David Lean

The Birds, director Alfred Hitchcock/ *Trainspotting* , director Danny Boyle

Course Requirements

- Read all assigned texts and view all assigned films critically.
- Participate in class discussions and activities.
- Write eight essays (2-3 typed pages) that demonstrate your engagement with the issues and works we are considering.
- Give a class presentation on a writer or a director
- Demonstrate your knowledge of the works and your understanding of the issues covered in the course on short quizzes and the final examination.

Class Policies

Video Screenings: This class requires students to view a full-length feature film twice a week (on Mondays and Wednesdays). Screenings will take place during normal class hours. Students must attend screenings at this time. Videos maybe available for further individual study.

Reading Assignments: Students must come to class having completed the assigned reading. On occasion, there will be short quizzes given to ensure that you are keeping up with the reading!

Written Assignments: I will announce the short essay topics each week. Essays must be typed following the MLA style guidelines. The essays are due at the beginning of class in order to facilitate class discussions. Late papers will drop one full letter grade, and a student who fails to turn in a paper within a week of its due date will receive an F on that assignment. **Always contact me before an assignment is due if you anticipate a problem.** If you receive a grade of C or lower on an essay, you must arrange to see me during my office hours

Presentations: Students are asked to give a short (ten-minute) presentation in class on either a director or an author. This may cover his/her life, but should deal with the most famous works, themes, actors, and the genre they belong to. This presentatio can be done in pairs, if students prefer..

Attendance Policy: Three unexcused absences will lower a student's grade; after five unexcused absences, the student fails the course. We will discuss during the first class what constitutes an "excused" absence.

Plagiarism Policy: We will review University guidelines for Academic Integrity on the first day of class.

Special Accommodations: I urge students who require special accommodations for individual needs (learning disabilities, physical handicaps, or other needs) to speak with me early in the term.

Grading rationale

20% Class Participation (includes preparation, discussion, in-class writing exercises)

10% Class Presentation

50% Essays (2-page written responses to each literature/film combination)

20% Final Exam

Date	Activity and course materials	Homework
Week 1		
	Introduction, terminology, screening	<i>The Turn of the Screw</i> ; Chaps 1 - 11
	Henry James, lecture; discussion, <i>The Turn of The Screw</i>	<i>The Turn of the Screw</i> , to end
	Screening: <i>The Turn of the Screw</i> , Dir. Ben Holt	Paper 1: <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>
	Discussion on film and book.	'The Dead' (class pack)

	Introduction to James Joyce, 'The Dead'.	
Week 2		
	Screening: 'The Dead'. Dir. John Huston.	Paper 2; 'The Dead'
	Discussion: 'The Dead'. Introduction to Charles Dickens and <i>Great Expectations</i> .	<i>Great Expectations</i>
	Screening: <i>Great Expectations</i> , Dir. David Lean	Paper 3: <i>Great Expectations</i>
	Discussion <i>Great Expectations</i> : Introduction to Dostoevsky, <i>Notes From Underground</i> .	Notes From Underground (class pack)
Week 3		
	Screening: <i>Notes From Underground</i> , Dir. David Wall	Paper 4: <i>Notes from Underground</i>
	Discussion: <i>Notes from Underground</i> . Introduction to Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i>	Macbeth
	Screening: <i>Throne of Blood</i> , Dir Kurosawa	Paper 5: <i>Macbeth/Throne of Blood</i>
	Discussion: film and book. Introduction to Colette and <i>Gigi</i> .	<i>Gigi</i> (class pack)
Week 4		
	Screening: <i>Gigi</i> , Dir. Vicente Minnelli	Paper 6: <i>Gigi</i>
	Discussion: <i>Gigi</i> . Introduction to Edith Wharton and <i>The Age of Innocence</i>	The Age of Innocence
	Screening: <i>The Age of Innocence</i> , Dir. Martin Scorsese	Paper 7; <i>The Age of Innocence</i>
	Discussion; <i>The Age of Innocence</i> . Introduction to Daphne du Maurier and 'The Birds' OR Irvine Welsh and 'Trainspotting'	'The Birds' OR <i>Trainspotting</i> (Students choose one)
Week 5		
	Screening: <i>The Birds</i> , Dir. Alfred Hitchcock OR <i>Trainspotting</i> Dir. Danny Boyle	Paper 8: Whichever film is chosen
	Discussion. Choice of film for Wed.	
	Screening and discussion	
	Final exam. 15.00 -17.00	