From Text to Screen: Film Adaptations of Anglophone Literature

The aim of the seminar is to prepare the students to write their BA theses concerning film adaptations of Anglophone fiction and non-fiction (novel, short story, auto/biography) and their cultural contexts.

At the seminar, we will examine problems related to film adaptations, such as: the process of transferring verbal texts to audio-visual medium; film as transcription, interpretation and translation; transferable and non-transferable elements of literary works; differences between adaptation, appropriation and modernization; literary and film genres; intertextuality; the idea of fidelity (faithful vs. radical adaptation); differences between television and cinema adaptations; heritage cinema; film as popularisation of high culture; effectiveness and reception of adaptations.

The starting point of discussions will be *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens and the novel’s cinematic and TV adaptations (1982, 1997, 2005) and *Twist* (2021) directed Martin Owen, as a radical modernization. The participants of this course are asked to read *Oliver Twist* before the classes.

Other films to be discussed at the seminar are listed below but this selection may be modified in view of the students’ interests:

*David Copperfield*

*A Passage to India*

*Brick Lane*

*Wide Sargasso Sea*

*Disgrace*

Sample BA Topics

1/ Heritage adaptations of Charles Dickens’ novels

2/ Representations of childhood in *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens and in its film adaptations

3/ Intertextual relations in Jean Rhys’ *Wide Sargasso Sea* and their treatment in film adaptations

Recommended Literature

Cahir, Linda Constanzo. *Literature into Film: Theory and Practical Approaches*. McFarland, 2006

Cardwell, Sarah. *Adaptation Revisited: Television and the Classic Novel*. Manchester UP, 2002

Cartmell, Deborah (ed.). *A Companion to Literature, Film, and Adaptation*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2012

Harrison, Stephanie. *Adaptations: From Short Story to Big Screen*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2005

Hutcheon, Linda. *A Theory of Adaptation*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2006

Stam, Robert and Alessandra Raengo. *Literature and Film: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Film Adaptation*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005