

AP HUMA 2670 6.0

Film and Literature (Y21-22, MW 16:00-17:30, REMT)

Course Instructor

Susan Ingram (singram@yorku.ca)

Office Hours on Zoom by appointment – please email me so that we can find a mutually convenient time

Course Description

As new technologies and social media increasingly mediate and shape our lived realities, the contemporary value and historical status of literature and film become increasingly topical. The novel and cinema are repeatedly declared “dead,” yet both enjoy greater popularity than ever. This course in Comparative Media Studies introduces students to the social, cultural, historical and aesthetic aspects of literature and film. It examines literature and film from the perspective of cultural history in order to make sense of both as media that came into being at particular historical moments and that continue to reinvent themselves in the wake of social and technological change.

The course emphasizes qualitative methods widely used and debated within interdisciplinary Humanities and focuses on practical exercises, from the identification of relevant research material and the formulation and clear expression of arguments to the presentation of research, interpretation, and analysis. A participatory seminar rather than a lecture course, there will be no live or asynchronous lectures. Rather, the focus will be on developing students’ research and communication skills in the online environment on the basis of readings and assignments.

All course materials will be housed on, and made available via, our eClass site.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- articulate a solid understanding of the conditions under which literature and film emerged as media and the factors that have shaped their development
- explain and give examples of key concepts in literary, cinema, and media studies
- formulate cogent comparisons for a range of relevant aspects of both media (origins, authorship, relation to modernity, awards, etc.)
- distinguish between description, evaluation, explanation, and analysis
- conduct research independently
- enhance their academic reading, writing, and research skills

Evaluation

- **Forum contributions (20%)**
each Wednesday after class a Forum task will be sent out. Students are to post responses by Saturday, and then come to class the following Monday prepared to discuss and work with both the posts and the week's readings.
- **Class contributions (20%)**
our eClass sessions will feature small assignments and group work. Consistent attendance and participation are crucial to your success in the course.
- **Writing Assignment 1 (10%)**
annotated bibliographical entries in MLA formatting for the first 5 readings (Williams, Bennett, Bordwell and Thompson, Barry, and Barsam and Monaham), explaining their relevance to the course, 300 words each, **due Wed 20 Oct**
- **Midterm Review (20%)**
choice of format (take home or oral), will include a self-assessment of the term's performance, **to take place (or due) the week of 13 Dec**
- **Writing Assignment 2 (10%)**
a skeleton (introduction with thesis statement and road map, topic sentences + quotes for three body paragraphs, 10-item bibliography) for an original essay on a novel written before 1900 or a film made before 1960, **due Mon 28 Feb**
- **Final Reflective Essay (20%)**: compare film and literature on the basis of our course materials using examples of your choice, 2000 words, **due Mon 11 Apr**

Course Format and Policies

Given the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the course will be conducted remotely via eClass and Zoom. Students, course instructors, and staff all have a joint responsibility to create and maintain a welcoming and inclusive learning environment under these circumstances just as we did in person. **If you experience an inappropriate online incident that makes you feel unsafe or uncomfortable, please contact me immediately.**

In order to establish an atmosphere of cooperation and trust, it is expected that participants will have their cameras on for at least some of each class (see <https://theconversation.com/after-a-year-of-zoom-meetings-well-need-to-rebuild-trust-through-eye-contact-160405>). If this will not be possible for you, please do not take this class.

The university encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term. An Accessibility Counsellor will help you establish recommended academic accommodations, which will then

need to be communicated to your course instructor(s) as necessary. Please let me know as early as possible if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation, so that your accommodation needs can be discussed and considered within the context of the course.

Finally, please remember that you are not permitted to share private information about your peers or/and instructor without their permission. Also, no aspect of this course's activities should be recorded or distributed without everyone's consent. Your lack of familiarity with any of the Senate Policy and Guidelines does not constitute a defence against their application, so please familiarize yourself with the following **Important Links** available at

<https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/my/>:

- [Mental Health and Wellness](#)
- [NEW - Student Guide to Remote Learning \(website\)](#)
- [NEW - Student Guide to Remote Learning \(English PDF\)](#)
- [NEW - Guide d'apprentissage à distance pour les étudiants \(French PDF\)](#)
- [Learning Skills Services](#)
- [The Writing Centre](#)
- [Note Sharing](#)
- [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)
- [Important Dates](#)

Schedule

W 8 Sept: Introductions

- Olga Tokarczuk, Nobel Lecture "The Tender Narrator"
<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2018/tokarczuk/lecture/>

13-15 Sept: What is Literature?

- Williams, Raymond. "Literature" and "Culture." *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. London: Fontana, 1981. 183-188.
- Bennett, Tony, "Culture" *New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. Eds. Tony Bennett, Lawrence Grossberg, Meaghan Morris. Malden, MA, Oxford, Carleton: Blackwell Publishing, 2005. 63-69.

20-22 Sept: What is Film?

- Bordwell, David, and Kristen Thompson. "Film as Art: Creativity, Technology, and Business." *Film Art: An Introduction*. 8th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2008. 2-53.

27-29 Sept: The Emergence of Literary Studies

- Barry, Peter. "Theory before 'Theory' – Liberal Humanism." *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. 3rd ed. Manchester and New York: Manchester UP, 2009. 11-37.

4-6 Oct: Film History

- Barsam, Richard and Dave Monahan. "Film History." *Looking at Movies: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. New York & London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010. 412-457.

11-13 Oct: READING WEEK

18-20 Oct: Antiquity: Reading and Writing

- Goldhill, Simon, "Literary History without Literature: Reading Practices in the Ancient World." *Debating World Literature*. Ed. Christopher Pendergast. London and New York: Verso, 2004. 175-196.
- Said, Suzanne. "Homer, or How to Create a World Writer." *Foundational Texts of World Literature*. Ed. Dominique Jullien. New York et al: Peter Lang, 2011. 29-46.

25-27 Oct: Antiquity: Reading and Singing

- Lord, Albert B. "Introduction." *The Singer of Tales*. 2nd ed. Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England: Harvard UP, 2000. 3-12.
- Homer, Book 1, *The Odyssey*: https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1727/1727-h/1727-h.htm#link2H_4_0003

1-3 Nov: The Rise and Fall of the Novel

- Watt, Ian. "The Reading Public and the Rise of the Novel." *The Rise of the Novel: Studies in Defoe, Richardson and Fielding*. Berkeley: U California P, 1957. 35-59.
- Wark, McKenzie, "On the Obsolescence of the Bourgeois Novel in the Anthropocene." *Verso Books*, Aug. 16, 2017: <https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/3356-on-the-obsolescence-of-the-bourgeois-novel-in-the-anthropocene>

8-10 Nov: Authors

- Bennett, Andrew, and Nicholas Royle. "The Author." *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory*. 4th ed. Harlow, England: Pearson, Longman, 2009. 19-27.
- Foucault, Michel, "What is an Author?"
- Barthes, Roland. "The Death of the Author." *Image, Music, Text*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1977. 142-148.

15-17 Nov: Auteurs

- Wollen, Peter. "The Auteur Theory." *Signs and Meanings in the Cinema*. 3rd ed. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1972. 74-115.
- Grant, Catherine. "www.auteur.com?" *Screen* 41.1 (Spring 2000): 101-108.

22-24 Nov: Visuality and Spectators

- Mirzoeff, Nicholas, "On Visuality." *Journal of Visual Culture*. 5.1 (2006): 53-79.

- Hummel, Maria. "A Baroque Painter's Feminist Rage (and Blood Spatter)." *Crime Reads*, June 7, 2018: <https://crimereads.com/the-transcendent-violence-of-artemesia-gentileschi/>
- Azoulay, Ariella. "The Spectator is Called to Take Part." *The Civic Contract of Photography*. New York: Zone Books, 2008. 137-186.

29 Nov-1 Dec: Film and Cinema in the Digital Age

- Belton, John. "If Film Is Dead, What Is Cinema?" *Screen* 55.4 (2014): 460-470.
- Sperling, Joshua, and Daniel Fairfax. "Discovering Cinema in the Digital Age: A Roundtable with Dudley Andrew." *MUBI* 20 Apr. 2014
<https://mubi.com/notebook/posts/discovering-cinema-in-the-digital-age-a-roundtable-with-dudley-andrew>

6 Dec: Review for the Midterm (to take place or be submitted the week of 13 Dec)

HOLIDAY BREAK

10-12 Jan: Translation

- David Damrosch, "Reading in Translation"
- Anna North, "Historically, Men Translated the Odyssey. Here's What Happened When a Woman Took the Job"

17-19 Jan: Adaptation

- Linda Hutcheon, from *A Theory of Adaptation*
- Review: Two New Adaptation Studies Journals (2009), <https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/stable/pdf/43797505.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A89ada8d7268cfce5a5338df1da62e322>
- Julian Peters, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T.S. Eliot as a comic

24-26 Jan: Modernity

- Charles Baudelaire, "The Painter of Modern Life"
- Miriam Hansen, "Vernacular Modernity"

31 Jan-2 Feb: Popular Culture

- Winfried Fluck, "Emergence or Collapse of Cultural Hierarchy? American Popular Culture Seen from Abroad"

7-9 Feb: Fashion

- Ksenia Gusarova, "Blanche's Clothes in Elia Kazan's *A Streetcar Named Desire*: From Social Guise to Critique of the Film Medium." *Fashion Theory* 24.4 (2020): 567-599.

- Joshua Bote, "Movie Stars and Anti-Filipino Race Riots: The Secret History of San Francisco's Macintosh Studios." *SF Gate*, April 28, 2021:
[https://www.sfgate.com/sfhistory/article/A-luxury-San-Francisco-suitmaker-that-inspired-a-16133069.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral&utm_id=34500&sfmc_id=1899571](https://www.sfgate.com/sfhistory/article/A-luxury-San-Francisco-suitmaker-that-inspired-a-16133069.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral&utm_id=34500&sfmc_id=1899571)

14-16 Feb: Awards in Theory

- James F. English, "Winning the Culture Game: Prizes, Awards, and the Rules of Art"
- Morris B. Holbrook, "Popular Appeal Versus Expert Judgments of Motion Pictures"

21-23 Feb: READING WEEK

28 Feb, 2 Mar: Literary Awards

- Horace Engdahl, "Canonization and World Literature: The Nobel Experience"
- Anthony Barnett, "John Berger and the Booker Prize"
- Zoe Williams, "The Harvard Professor of Bob Dylan Studies: 'My Thesis is That He Has Become Odysseus,'" <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/nov/17/the-harvard-professor-of-bob-dylan-studies-my-thesis-is-that-he-has-become-odysseus-richard-f-thomas>
- Sarah Brouillette, "Tragedy Mistaken for Management Theory: On Kazuo Ishiguro and the Nobel Prize," <https://praxisarchives.wordpress.com/2017/10/16/on-kazuo-ishiguro-and-the-nobel-prize-in-literature/>

7-9 Mar: Film Awards

- Donna Murch, "The Prison of Popular Culture: Rethinking the Seventy-Fourth Annual Academy Awards"
- Annie Proulx, "Blood on the Red Carpet"

14-16 Mar: World Literature vs World Cinema

- Gloria Fisk, "Against World Literature: The Debate in Retrospect"
- Dudley Andrew, "An Atlas of World Cinema"

21-23 Mar: Making Neoliberalism Visible in Europe and Africa

- Hester Behr, "Introduction: Making Neoliberalism Visible"
- Nedine Moonsamy, "Science Fiction Imaginaries in Africa":
<https://www.humanstories.ca/blog/nedine-moonsamy-science-fiction-imaginaries-in-africa>

28-30 Mar: review

4-6 Apr: presentation and workshopping of final essays