

ENG9LT Literature and Film: Theory and Practice of Adaptation

Tutors: T.B.C

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As the numerous filmic reworkings of novels in contemporary culture indicate, many readers today experience literature through filmic adaptations, if not initially, then at least as a supplement to their initial readings; increasingly, to speak of a literary text without at least some awareness of its filmic afterlife in modern visual culture is to miss a crucial aspect of its meaning and cultural significance. This module aims to equip students with a theoretically informed understanding of the process of novel/film adaptation, and how it both differs from, and shares similarities with, other forms of textual 'retelling', such as intertextuality and appropriation. The process of adapting a literary text into a film raises a number of crucial theoretical issues, not least of all matters related to authorship and originality; selection and amplification; actualization and critique; extrapolation and analogization; popularization and canonization; the high/low cultural divide and process of reculturalization.

Literary texts: to be studied in the order listed

Forster, E.M. *Howard's End* Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics

Conrad, Joseph, *Heart of Darkness*. Penguin Classics

McEwan, Ian, *Atonement*. Vintage.

Woolf, Virginia, *Orlando*. Oxford World's Classics

Du Maurier, Daphne, *Rebecca*. Virago Modern Classics

Austen, Jane, *Pride and Prejudice*. Oxford Worlds Classics

Wheeler, Helen, *Bridget Jones' Diary*. Picador.

Shelley, Mary, *Frankenstein*. (1831 text). Penguin Classics

Films

James Ivory, dir. *Howards End* (1992)

*Francis Ford Coppola, dir. *Apocalypse Now* (1979)

*Joe Wright, dir. *Atonement* (2007)

Sally Potter, dir. *Orlando* (1992)

*Alfred Hitchcock, dir. *Rebecca* (1940)

Robert Z Leonard, dir. *Pride and Prejudice* (1940)

*Joe Wright, dir. *Pride and Prejudice* (2005)

*Sharon Maguire, dir. *Bridget Jones' Diary* (2001)

*Gurinda Chadha, dir. *Bride and Prejudice* (2004)

Thomas Edison, dir. *Frankenstein* (1910; available on HYPERLINK

"[http://www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com/www.youtube.com)" www.youtube.com)

James Whale, dir. *Frankenstein* (1931)

*Kenneth Branagh, dir. *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. (1994)