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### ENG 2504G-001: Film and Literature

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*Eastern Illinois University*

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## ENG 2504G: Film and Literature

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington  
Office: Coleman Hall 3321  
Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu

Class: Coleman Hall 3290, MW, 1:00-2:50pm  
Office Hours: MWF 12-1pm or by appt.

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to practical and theoretical relations between film and literature.

Identity & Culture; Genre, Form & Poetics; Education & Society; Media, Technology & Popular Culture

**FALL 2022 DESCRIPTION:** In this course, we will study a variety of film adaptations of literary texts in an effort to understand how film often interprets, updates, alters and sometimes even betrays its source material. What is gained and what is lost in a filmic remake of a beloved novel? Possible films include: *Passing*, *Less Than Zero*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Color Purple*, *Like Water for Chocolate*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

### TEXTBOOKS:

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*  
Bret Easton Ellis, *Less Than Zero*  
Laura Esquivel, *Like Water for Chocolate*  
Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*  
Nella Larsen, *Passing*  
Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*

Philip K. Dick, "We Can Remember It for You Wholesale" (can be found in D2L)

### FILMS:

*Total Recall* (1990)  
*Total Recall* (2012)  
*The Handmaid's Tale* (1990)  
*The Handmaid's Tale*, selected TV episodes  
*Less Than Zero*, (1987)  
*Like Water for Chocolate*, (1992)  
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, (1975)  
*Passing*, (2021)  
*The Color Purple*, (1985)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** In this course, students will:

- Develop a critical vocabulary of film/cinematic techniques in order to understand how films work and to interpret films intelligently.
- Develop an intellectual and cultural understanding of how practical and theoretical ideas operate between the genres of cinema and literature.
- Learn to identify central literary and cinematic innovations and tendencies of the modern war/post-war periods through the contemporary (i.e., 1930s-present).
- Develop a complex understanding of the social, historical, and cultural context of the films and literature under study.

- Work on and develop their critical reading and critical thinking skills through intensive engagement with a variety of traditional print and multimedia texts across multiple genres (including literature, film studies, political philosophy, literary and cultural theory).
- Develop sophisticated written and oral research and argumentative skills through the creation and presentation of short analytical response papers, periodic examinations, and intensive research term papers.
- Enhance their writing and critical thinking skills by completing revisions of analytical papers.
- Learn to understand the differences and commonalities of how film and literature work to represent nuances of gender, sexuality, politics, psychology, and identity (as being explored by the filmmakers and writers under discussion).

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Students are required to attend all film screenings and all student presentations.
- Students will engage in enthusiastic class discussion. “Enthusiastic” means come to class prepared to share your ideas and interpretations about what you have read or watched.
- Students will be prepared and committed to take frequent quizzes in response to course texts (i.e., films and print material) and to complete two essays, a final exam and a class presentation.
- Students are required to have all reading assignments completed for class (as indicated by the class schedule). Reading quizzes will be given to ensure timely completion of assignments.

**POLICIES:**

**Attendance:** I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your final grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

**Office Hours:** I encourage you to come see me whenever you like. Come to ask questions, discuss problems or just to chat. Additional office hours can be held via Zoom and we can meet this way at times that are convenient for you.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be re-reported to the Office of Student Standards.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by MacAfee Hall 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

**Writing Center:** EIU's Writing Center provides free one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929 or click here: <https://www.eiu.edu/writing/>

**The Student Success Center:** Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center ([www.eiu.edu/~success](http://www.eiu.edu/~success)) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to MacAfee Hall 1301.

**Student Wellbeing:** I will try to bring snacks to class every day. Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact your RA for support. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to help you access the help you need. These are weird and trying times. I know that. I also know that these times can take their toll in unexpected ways and your schoolwork can suffer because of it. You should know that I want you to be successful and will work with you to help you become so. In other words, don't drop out or blow off our class; talk to me about your situation.

For a list of resources for student wellbeing, click here: [https://www.eiu.edu/fdic/Student%20 Well-Being 26-July-2022.pdf](https://www.eiu.edu/fdic/Student%20Well-Being%2026-July-2022.pdf)

**Grade Breakdown:**

Quizzes (15 at 20 points each)	300
Film Review	200
Mise-en-scène Analysis	200
Presentation of Mise-en-scène Analysis	100
Final Exam	200

**SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS**

- August 22 M Introduction, film terminology discussion  
 24 W READ: *Passing*, Part I, some textbook stuff (Q1)
- 29 M READ: *Passing*, Part II, WATCH: ½ of film; more textbook stuff  
 31 W READ: *Passing*, Part III, WATCH: other half of film (Q2 – about film terminology)
- Sept. 5 M **LABOR DAY – NO CLASS**  
 7 W READ: *Cuckoo's Nest*, Part I (Q3)
- 12 M READ: *Cuckoo's Nest*, Parts II and III, WATCH: ½ of film (Q4)  
 14 W READ: *Cuckoo's Nest*, Part IV, WATCH: rest of film
- 19 M READ: “We Can Remember It for You Wholesale” (found in D2L) (Q5), Find and bring a review of each film we have watched so far, **Film Review assigned**  
 21 W WATCH: Total Recall (1990)
- 26 M READ: *Less Than Zero*, pp. 1-86; WATCH: ½ of Total Recall (2012) (Q6)  
 28 W READ: *Less Than Zero*, pp. 87-128; WATCH: other ½ of Total Recall (2012)
- Oct. 3 M READ: *Less Than Zero*, pp. 128-end; WATCH: ½ of Less Than Zero (Q7)  
 5 W WATCH: other ½ of Less Than Zero **Film Review due**

10 M **Visual Analysis Assigned, example clips analyzed in class**

12 W READ: *Like Water for Chocolate*, January-June (Q8), **Visual Analysis Assigned**

17 M READ: *Like Water for Chocolate*, July-October; WATCH: ½ film

19 W READ: *Like Water for Chocolate*, November-December; WATCH: other ½ film (Q9)

24 M READ: *Handmaid's Tale*, Chaps 1-17, WATCH: Episode 1 (Q10)

26 W READ: *Handmaid's Tale*, Chaps.18-24 WATCH: ½ film

31 M READ: *Handmaid's Tale*, Chaps 25-38; WATCH: Episode 2 (Q11)

Nov. 2 W READ: *Handmaid's Tale*, Chaps 39-end; WATCH: other ½ film, (Q12)

7 M READ: *Color Purple*, pp.1-60 **Visual Analysis due**

9 W READ: *Color Purple*, pp. 61-117, (Q13)

14 M READ: *Color Purple*, pp. 118-238, (Q14)

16 W READ: *Color Purple*, pp. 239-end, (Q15)

## **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

28 M **Presentations-ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND CLASS THIS DAY**

30 W **Presentations-ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND CLASS THIS DAY**

Dec. 5 M **Presentations-ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND CLASS THIS DAY**

7 W **Presentations-ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND CLASS THIS DAY**

**Final Exam: Tuesday, December 13, 12:30-2:30pm**