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ENG 3504-001: Film and Literature

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Course Description:

According to Mark Larson of *The Guardian*, film adaptations of nineteenth century fiction have “proved so attractive to the cameras” not only because of their “compelling narratives filled with fascinating characters,” but also because they highlight “timeless taboos” which primarily “feature a couple whose union is impossible or dangerous.” This section of English 3504 will explore such timeless taboos in novels as varied as Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and Frances E.W. Harper’s *Iola Leroy* and film adaptations across cultures. (Group 5)

Course Objectives:

Students completing this course will:

a. Identify and analyze the historical forces that helped shape the development of literature and film, including industrial, technological, and cultural influences.

b. Evaluate the uses of camera, editing, lighting, sound, and acting, as well as their contributions to the construction of meaning for audiences.

c. Analyze how literature and cinema reveals and responds to the social, economic, and cultural contexts of their production.

d. Examine how meaning in literature and cinema is filtered through various cultural contexts.

e. Identify, critique and apply film and literary theories in relation to global historical contexts.

f. Write analytically and effectively about literature and film in relation to its historical and cultural contexts.

EIU Learning Goals:

Critical Thinking

EIU graduates question, examine, evaluate, and respond to problems or arguments by:

1. Asking essential questions and engaging diverse perspectives.

2. Seeking and gathering data, information, and knowledge from experience, texts, graphics, and media.

3. Understanding, interpreting, and critiquing relevant data, information, and knowledge.

4. Synthesizing and integrating data, information, and knowledge to infer and create new insights.

5. Anticipating, reflecting upon, and evaluating implications of assumptions, arguments, hypotheses, and conclusions.

6. Creating and presenting defensible expressions, arguments, positions, hypotheses, and proposals.

Writing and Critical Reading

EIU graduates write critically and evaluate varied sources by:

1. Creating documents appropriate for specific audiences, purposes, genres, disciplines, and professions.

2. Crafting cogent and defensible applications, analyses, evaluations, and arguments about problems, ideas, and issues.

3. Producing documents that are well organized, focused, and cohesive.

4. Using appropriate vocabulary, mechanics, grammar, diction, and sentence structure.

5. Understanding, questioning, analyzing, and synthesizing complex textual, numeric, and graphical sources.


7. Collecting and employing source materials ethically and understanding their strengths and limitations.

Speaking and Listening

EIU graduates prepare, deliver, and critically evaluate presentations and other formal speaking activities by:

1. Collecting, comprehending, analyzing, synthesizing and ethically incorporating source material.

2. Adapting formal and impromptu presentations, debates, and discussions to their audience and purpose.

3. Developing and organizing ideas and supporting them with appropriate details and evidence.

4. Using effective language skills adapted for oral delivery, including appropriate vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure.
5. Using effective vocal delivery skills, including volume, pitch, rate of speech, articulation, pronunciation, and fluency.
6. Employing effective physical delivery skills, including eye contact, gestures, and movement.
7. Using active and critical listening skills to understand and evaluate oral communication.

Responsible Citizenship
EIU graduates make informed decisions based on knowledge of the physical and natural world and human history and culture by:
1. Engaging with diverse ideas, individuals, groups, and cultures.
2. Applying ethical reasoning and standards in personal, professional, disciplinary, and civic contexts.
3. Participating formally and informally in civic life to better the public good.
4. Applying knowledge and skills to new and changing contexts within and beyond the classroom.

Texts:

Jane Austen Novels:
- *Sense and Sensibility*
- *Pride and Prejudice*
- *Mansfield Park*
- *Emma*
- *Persuasion*

One of the Following:
- *Iola Leroy* (online)
- *O! Pioneers*
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Course Requirements:

1. **Entrance Card**: Once a week you will complete an entrance card answering a question about the film(s) screened and/or text read for that class. More later.

2. **Midterm**: This exam will provide an opportunity to internalize material all students read for class and to carefully read the first films in the class.

3. **Final Exam**: This exam will not be cumulative. It will provide an opportunity to internalize material read for class as a group and as a class from Midterm forward and carefully to read the last films in the class.

4. **Two Papers**: You will also write two papers, one due at midterm and one due by the final class session on D2L:
   - The first paper will give you the opportunity to review one of the films on the course calendar through a blog entry or approximately 1000 words.
   - The second paper will allow you to look beyond films screened for class to examine a book and adaptation (s) responding to Austen themes in a paper of approximately 2000 words.

      Note that these assignments will be turned in on D2L.

5. **Wiki Page**: This wiki page will serve as a way to illustrate your second paper. You will present your wiki to the class in a five-minute informal “show and tell” session.
6. **Film Log**: This Log will offer a place for you to write brief responses to the films we watch for class. These should be informal and approximately 150 words. Respond to them in relation to Film Narrative and Style or our class theme (Austen and Timeless Taboos).

**Grades**: Grades will be determined as follows for a total of 100%:

- **Entrance Cards and Participation** - 15%
- **Midterm** - 15%
- **Final Exam** - 20%
- **Paper I** - 10%
- **Final Paper** - 20%
- **Wiki Page and Presentation** - 10%
- **Film Log** - 10%

**Grading of Entrance Cards, Presentations, and Papers**:

- Entrance Card grades will be based on analytical complexity. Each will be worth twenty points.
- Paper grades will be based on the following areas: Audience awareness, organization, development, sentence structure, word choice, grammar/usage/mechanics. The first three areas will be weighted more heavily than the second three (60% vs. 40%). I will also distribute the English Department’s grade analysis in class and a paper rubric in class.
- Presentations will be evaluated according to a rubric I will distribute in class.

**Students with Disabilities**: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible. All accommodations must be approved through OSDS.

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**: The English Department states, "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism -- 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work' -- has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of "F" in the course." 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 reported to the Office of Student Standards.

**Electronic Writing Portfolio**: This class is a writing intensive class, so you may submit your paper as a writing portfolio sample, following the instructions on the CASL Website. Submissions must be made during the course of the class to receive my approval. Please note that the Writing Center is available for help with all writing assignments, as well.

**Writing Center**: Ambitious students can also seek help from the Writing Center. Call for an appointment (581-5920) or visit (CH3110) at any point in the writing process, from brainstorming, planning and drafting, to final editing. Bring your assignment sheet and any written work and/or sources with you. The Writing Center is open Monday-Thursday, 9-3 and 6-9, and Friday from 9-1. Take advantage of this free service.

**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) for assistance with time management, test 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 9th Street Hall, Room 1.

**Please Note**: Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should provide each of their English department professors with the yellow form, “Application for English department Approval to Student Teach.” These are available on a rack outside the office of Dr. Donna Binns (CH 3851). **Also Note:** You must complete all major assignments to complete this course.
August

26 Introduction to the course and each other. Difference between reading film and literature. *Film Art* introduction to (review of) narrative and style—film as a system. Read *Film Art* excerpts for next week and prepare for entrance card.

Film clips

27 Film Screening: *Jane Austen’s Life…*

September

2 **Entrance Card** review of *Film Art* reading. Discuss Adaptation Theory, Jane Austen, and Translating Austen’s novels to the big (and small) screen. Read first half of *Sense of Sensibility* for next Tuesday.

4 Film Screening: *Sense and Sensibility* (1995)

9 **Entrance Card.** Discuss first half of *Sense of Sensibility* novel and film adaptation. Complete *Sense of Sensibility* for next Tuesday.

11 Film Screening: *Kandukondain Kandukondain* (2000)

16 **Entrance Card.** Discuss *Sense of Sensibility* novel and film adaptations. Read first half of *Pride and Prejudice* for next Tuesday.

18 Film Screening: *Bride and Prejudice* (2004)

23 **Entrance Card.** Discuss first half of *Pride and Prejudice* and adaptation. Finish *Pride and Prejudice* for Tuesday, October 7. Complete draft of paper 1 for Tuesday, September 30.

25 Film Screening: *Bridget Jones’s Diary* (2001)

30 **Draft of Paper I, Film Review Blog due for peer review and conferences.** Discuss *Pride and Prejudice* film adaptations.

October

2 Film Screening: *Pride and Prejudice* (2005)

7 **Paper I due.** Prepare for Midterm. Discuss *Pride and Prejudice* and film adaptations and introduce *Mansfield Park*. Read *Mansfield Park* for Tuesday, October 21.

9 Film Screening: *Mansfield Park* (1999)

14 **Midterm. Film Log due (first half) after midterm.** Discuss *Mansfield Park* film adaptation.

16 Film Screening: *Metropolitan* (1990)

21 **Entrance Card.** Introduce Paper II (Responses to Jane Austen) and Wiki Page. Discuss *Mansfield Park* and its adaptations. Read first half of *Emma* for Tuesday.
23 Film Screening: *Emma* (1996)

28 **Entrance Card.** Discuss first half of *Emma.* Read the rest of *Emma* for next Tuesday.

30 Film Screening: *Aisha* (2010) or *Clueless* (1995)

**November**

4 **Entrance Card.** Discuss *Emma* and its film adaptations. Read first half of *Persuasion* for next Tuesday.

6 EVFF Film Screening: *Divorce American Style* (1967) or *Chitty, Chitty Bang Bang* (1968)

11 **Entrance Card.** Sign up and practice wiki pages. Discuss first half of *Persuasion.* Finish *Persuasion* and complete a draft of paper II for Tuesday, November 18.

13 Film Screening: *Persuasion* (1995 or 2007)

18 **Draft of Paper II due for peer review and conferences.** Discuss *Persuasion,* EVFF film responding to Austen themes, and *Persuasion* adaptation. Read the novel of your choice for the Tuesday after break: *O! Pioneers,* *Their Eyes Were Watching God,* or *Iola Leroy* (available on D2L).

20 Film Screening: *Il Mare* (2000) or *The Lake House* (2006)

24-28 Thanksgiving Break: No School!

**December**

2 **Entrance Card.** Discuss your chosen novel in groups. Complete a revision of Paper II and Wiki due next week.

4 Film Screening: *Imitation of Life* (1934 or 1959) or *Pinky* (1949)

9 **Paper II and Wiki Pages due. Present Wiki pages.**

11 Last Class Day—Film Screening: Class choice.

**Final Exam. Film Log Due after Final!**