Spring 2018 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Dr. James Francis
Course: 356.501
Title: Literature and Film

Description: The focus for the class is adaptation: examining narrative changes to further our understanding of how literary and visual works function together and separately from a base story. Although there are films that lead to the creations of literary adaptations, the emphasis for our class will be investigating the process of the written word converted to feature-film presentation. We seek to answer questions concerning modifications and their effects in storytelling as one medium translates into another. Throughout the semester, our readings will take us “across the genres” to evaluate adaptation from short fiction, children’s literature, and epistolary written constructions to horror, science fiction, and social-problem movie productions. Film and literary theory will aid discussions and further our knowledge of adaptation.

Proposed Readings:
Christopher Isherwood: A Single Man
Robert Bloch: Psycho
Clive Barker: The Hellbound Heart
Alice Walker: The Color Purple
Neil Gaiman: Coraline
Maurice Sendak: Where the Wild Things Are
Philip K. Dick: Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?
Philip K. Dick: “We Can Remember It for You Wholesale”