Instructor: Anne Morey  
Course: ENGL/FILM 356  
Title: Literature and Film

Description: While the course is not explicitly about adaptation, we will read five or so nineteenth-century English novels or novellas and then view adaptations of each of them in order to create a laboratory for the examination of how literature and film are not the same thing, kin in some respects though they may be. We will focus on the narrational strategies particular to each medium in order to apprehend the structural differences between film and literature. In particular, we will consider how the story telling proper to each medium presents the consciousness of characters and controls the attention of the reader/viewer. We will also consider why the film industry has a propensity for certain kinds of texts in preference to others (particularly through a consideration of the influence of Jane Eyre on the woman’s film and how the Victorian horror novel is often deployed by film to explore contemporary problems in sexuality) in order to have a more general idea of the ways in which literature serves the film industry (and the film industry literature).

Proposed Readings: Dickens, Oliver Twist, or Austen, Pride and Prejudice; Bronte, Jane Eyre; Stoker, Dracula; James, Turn of the Screw, or Portrait of a Lady; Stevenson, The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde