

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2020-2021**

GERM 399 A1:

*Special Topics: Text to Film (Media Transformations from Text to Film)*  
(Fall Term)

*Remote Delivery via Zoom*

Instructor: Dr. Florian Mundhenke

Time (synchronous teaching): MWF 10:00-10:50

Place: Online

E-mail: [mundhenk@ualberta.ca](mailto:mundhenk@ualberta.ca)

Office Hours: Online by appointment via Mail in Zoom

Personal Website: <https://hybridmedien.wordpress.com>

Course Website: eClass (<https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/course/view.php?id=64417>)

**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:**

None

**Technology requirements (minimum):** Computer with online access and camera/microphone, Zoom access, PDF reader, free media player (e.g. VLC)

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

**Experiential Learning Component**

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

N/A

### **Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

The literary adaptation of novels, short stories and even prose into film has been a common practice from the very beginning of film history, even in times of the silent movie. While this practice has been criticized as being not as esteemed as the production of original texts, the 1970s and 1980s have proven that film can add a new value to film texts (e.g. *The Godfather*, 1971, after Mario Puzo, or *The Name of the Rose*, 1986, after Umberto Eco). The seminar will focus on German language adaptations of the last 15 years that have been widely discussed as successful examples, including Fatih Akin's adaptation of Wolfgang Herrndorf's *Tschick* (2016), and – quite recently – Hermann Hesse's *Narziß und Goldmund* (2020, Stefan Ruzowitzky). We will also examine the variety of techniques and methods to adapt literature into film and the different sets of artistic values and measures established by literature and film, especially in concerning narration. At the end of the course, successful students will be able to evaluate literary adaptations, analyze strategies of transformation and will be aware of techniques of aesthetics and storytelling in different forms of linear arts.

**Course Format:** The course will be a combination of close readings of various media (literary and film texts), and their comparison and discussion. There will be assigned readings on basic texts on literary adaptation and short presentations by students on these texts. One response paper and one essay will be taken as a proof of the practical application of the methods discussed theoretically.

### **Texts:**

#### Required:

Cartmell, Deborah, Imelda Whelehan (1999): *Adaptations. From Text to Screen, Screen to Text*. London, New York: Routledge.

Chatman, Seymour (1990): *Coming to Terms. The Rhetoric of Narrative in Fiction and Film*. Ithaca, London: Cornell University Press.

Lothe, Jakob (2000): *Narrative in Fiction and Film. An Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Essential extracts from these texts will be provided by the instructor.

#### Recommended:

Wolfgang Gast (Ed.) (1999): *Literaturverfilmung*. 2nd Edition. Bamberg: Buchner.

Albersmeier, Franz-Josef, Volker Roloff (1989). *Literaturverfilmungen*. Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp.

### **Additional Course Fees**

Yes             No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2020  
Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020  
50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020  
Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020  
Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020  
Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020

**Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”): [response papers / essays]**

Presentation (10 minutes) discussing a film adaptation of your choice, comparing literary text and film version	10%
Response paper (1200 to 1500 words) based on your presentation; must be submitted on the day of your presentation	20%
Discussion topic and accompanying paper	30%
Essay (2200 to 2500 words) – due December 4, 2020	30%
Online Attendance and Participation	10%

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

Assignments in this course include one short oral presentation online (ca. 10 minutes), a response paper, the suggestion of a discussion topic, and an essay to apply a method of analysis to a specific example (maximum 2500 words). Further details will be distributed in class later.

**Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

**Student Responsibilities:**

***Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

***Sexual Violence Policy:***

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

***Territorial Statement:***

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not

handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

**Accessibility Resources:** (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

**The Academic Success Centre:** (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

**The Centre for Writers:** (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

**Grading:**

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>