

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2018 SLAV 299 B2 / ENG 385 B1: Text To Film: Cinematic
Adaptations of Literary Classics
(Winter Term)

Instructor: *Elena Siemens*
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Time: *W 14:00-16:50*
Place: *HC L 4*
Office Hours: *TBA*
or by appointment
Course Website: *n/a*

Course Prerequisite: No prerequisites. Course is taught in English.

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

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

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)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

SLAV 299 B2 / ENG 385 B1 addresses cinematic adaptations of celebrated fiction from around the world. In addition, the course studies references to literary works in photography and other visual media. Students will learn to critically analyze various modes of filmic (and other visual) adaptations, such as "autotextual," "ideotextual," and "ideological" (Patrice Pavis). The course will discuss selected chapters from such literary works as Alice in Wonderland, Anna Karenina, Doctor Zhivago, The Little Prince, Lolita, Sherlock Holmes and others. By the end of the course, students will

demonstrate familiarity with critical and theoretical material pertaining to the medium of film (montage, art cinema, Hollywood cinema, etc), the relationship between literature and film, and filmic adaptations (typology of film/ theatre adaptations). Along with more traditional written and oral assignments, students will learn to complete creative tasks, such as producing a short photo/ video adaptation of a literary text of their choice.

Texts:

Texts will be provided by the instructor. Critical sources will include:

*Bordwell, David, *Narration in the Fiction Film*;*

*Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson, *Film Art: An Introduction*;*

*Chatman, Seymour, *Story and Discourse: Narrative Structure in Fiction and Film*;*

*Chatman, Seymore, *Coming to Terms: The Rhetoric of Narrative in Fiction and Film*;*

*Eisenstein, Sergei, *Film Form: Essays in Film Theory*;*

*Pavis, Patrice, *Theatre at the Crossroads of Culture*;*

*Warner Marien, Mary, *Photography: A Critical History*.*

*Literary sources will include selected chapters from *Alice in Wonderland*, *Anna Karenina*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *The Little Prince*, *Lolita*, *Sherlock Holmes*, and others.*

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

25% Attendance and Participation (regular attendance, informed participation in class discussions with references to assigned critical texts on film/ visual media, and literary works; participation in group discussions both oral and written).

25% Homework (weekly written assignments on questions pertaining to the material covered in class, as well as similar oral assignments to be delivered in class).

20% Midterm Project (due February 14, the project incorporates three parts, including a) defining theoretical concepts covered in the course (500 words), b) responding to questions on critical material covered in the course (500 words), c) a short critical essay on the material covered in class, or a visual essay with a written commentary (1000 words).

30% Final Project (due April 4, the last class is reserved for oral presentations on one of the project questions of students choice; this project incorporates three parts, including a) defining theoretical concepts covered in the course (500 words), b) responding to questions on critical material covered in the course (500 words), c) a short critical essay, or a visual essay with a written commentary (800-1000 words).

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Not applicable

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Attendance and participation: Three or more unexcused absences from class will result in the lowering of final grade. It is essential that students come to class well prepared and participate fully in class discussions.

Homework: Each student will receive a grade, when appropriate, for homework. Students are responsible for making up work that is missed due to excused absence. The work to be made up must be handed in the day the student returns to class. Written homework will be collected at the beginning of class.

Midterm Project (written and oral): Each student will be expected to complete a midterm project (2000 words) on a subject related to the course (addressing filmic texts, and theoretical/ critical material). The presentation, based on the written portion, may include audio or visual components. The Midterm project will be comprised in such a way as to give students a good idea of their final project.

Final Project (written and oral): Each student will be expected to complete a final project (2000 words) on a subject related to the course addressing filmic texts, and theoretical/ critical material. The presentation, based on the written portion, may include audio or visual components.

Required Notes:

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

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 (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) 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.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work 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](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

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](#).

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.

In this course, 25% is assigned to attendance and active participation in class.

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.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

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	%
Excellent. 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.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. 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+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. 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.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72

Poor/Minimal Pass. 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.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59