

FIS 724 – The Adaptation Screenplay F 12
Friday 9:30-12:30; FDH 202
Clark, Office: FDH 423, 895-2442
Office Hours: Tues 3-4:30/Thurs 10:30-12
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Objective -- To engage the student in the study and practice of the art and craft of adapting a screenplay from another medium. The student will implement that study by writing a full-length (80 pages minimum/100 pages maximum length) screenplay adaptation in accepted industry format.

Outcome and Assessment – By the end of this course the student will be able to analyze and discuss the maintenance of metaphor and theme when adapting literary work from different time, cultures and media. The student will demonstrate that ability by writing a full-length screenplay following the specific requirement listed below.

Requirements

The source material for the adaptation must be a minimum 100 years old, in the public domain and be approved by the professor with regards to metaphor and structure as the adaptation must be in a contemporary setting. “Contemporary” means right now, not even in the recent past. Student must then “Pitch” proposed material. Pitch must be prepared and done orally in class. The class will participate in the pitch. Once the pitch is approved in class, the student will begin writing. The first draft of the script is due on the day of the final examination.

--Once the entire class has been launched on their scripts, the “in-class” work will consist of studying a series of adaptations and analyzing to what degree they work and how they were executed. The students will be responsible for short analytical papers concerning these adaptations. This should inform the students as they are in their process of writing.

--Assessment of the students work will be based on the ability to maintain tone and metaphor in adapting and creating the material. Attention will be paid to the pitch (30%) of grade and the first draft of the script (50% of grade) and how the script progresses from one stage to the next. The remaining 20% of the grade will be based on the written response to the film adaptations studied in class.

Academic Misconduct – “Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.”

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism: “Using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources.” See the “Student Academic Misconduct Policy” (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>.

Copyright – The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself

with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following website:
<http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC) – It is important to know that over two-thirds of the students in the DRC reported that this syllabus statement, often read aloud by the faculty during class, directed them to the DRC office.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: Voice (702) 895-0866, TDD (702) 895-0652, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

Religious Holidays Policy -- Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the last day at late registration of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could not be avoided.
<http://catalog.unlv.acalog.com/content.php?catoid=1&navoid=44&bc=1>

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Library—Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is found here https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject. UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>

Tutoring and Coaching—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center – *The following statement is recommended for inclusion in course syllabi:* One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance.

Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Rebelmail—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Schedule of Classes

Because this is a workshop writing class, the schedule is bound to change given the vagaries of the muse. Be prepared for changes. The priority will be development of the scripts over film study and analysis as the latter is all in support of the former.

Aug 31 – Introduction. Discussion of possible material. Format. Discussion of examples.

Sep 7 – Pitches Begin.

Sep 14 – Pitches Continue.

Sep 21 – Pitches continue.

Sep 28 – – Screen Jane Austen's Emma – discuss themes and metaphors – update examination of source material.

Oct 5 – Screen Clueless – compare and contrast. Discuss the process as observed. Update examination of source material..

Oct 12 All pitches should be concluded or conclude on this date. – Screen Great Expectations – period version. Mid-Term Exam

Oct 19 –Screen Great Expectations contemporary version. Paper: Compare and contrast.

Oct 26 – **Nevada Day.**

Nov 2 -- Screen Dangerous Liaisons. Discuss adaptation to screen

Nov 9 – Screen Cruel Intentions. Discuss. Compare and contrast writing assignment.

Nov 16 – Updates on scripts. Troubleshooting. Screen: Bleak House. Consider the book, then the script, then screen. Discourse.

Nov 23 – Thanksgiving Break

Nov 30 – Workshop Scripts

Dec 7 – Workshop Scripts.

Dec 14 – **Final Exam** – **Final Workshop**