

## CHID 480A: Adaptation

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T Th 10:30-12:20 in ART 004

Canvas Site: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/794416>

**Instructors:** Nara Hohensee ([naraille@gmail.com](mailto:naraille@gmail.com)) and Amy Peloff ([apeloff@uw.edu](mailto:apeloff@uw.edu))

**Office Hours by Appointment in Padelford B-102**

This class will be built around Charlie Kaufman's film *Adaptation* (2002) and the Meta Movie film series sponsored by SIFF over winter quarter. Using this film as our starting point, we will explore the particular post-modern, post-pop historical moment from which it emerged. We will also think more broadly about the idea of adaptation as it intersects with the processes of writing, producing, and storytelling. The class will culminate in an adaptive project, created either individually or in collaboration with other class members.

This class is part of a special collaboration between SIFF and local colleges and universities. SIFF is sponsoring a public lecture and film series on Meta Movies and has invited local instructors to design courses around that topic. Students will have to commit to attending these three films and lectures over the course of the quarter at the SIFF Film Center at the Seattle Center. Tentative dates and times are Jan. 21, Feb. 18, and Mar. 4 from 5:30pm-8:30pm.

### Goals of the Course:

- To gain an understanding of the postmodern, post-pop historical moment.
- To create a working definition of "adaptation."
- To develop criticality vis-à-vis the politics of narrative representation.
- To apply these concepts using a multi-modal approach that includes writing, discussing, and the production of a creative project.

### Books

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- King, Thomas. *The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005.
- Hutcheon, Linda. *A Theory of Adaptation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: Routledge, 2012.

### Assignments

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#### Participation (15%):

Discussion is one of the central pedagogical methods of this class. You are responsible for doing all of the readings on time and coming to class with ideas and questions; all of us are responsible for maintaining an environment that is respectful toward others. Attendance and active discussion are required. Clearly, if you don't attend class, you won't be able to contribute to discussions. If you know that you must miss a class, please call or e-mail both Amy and Nara before the class.

#### Freewrite and Meta-reflection Papers (25%): Due Mondays by 5pm, Weeks 2-6

For the **freewrite**, respond to the reading(s), allowing yourself complete freedom in what you write. Let yourself write 'garbage' (do pay attention to spelling, but don't worry too much about grammar in this portion). Write whatever comes to mind, whether it seems good or not – don't evaluate yourself or worry about whether what you're saying sounds stupid. Do this for at least 5 minutes. Leave the freewrite 'as-is' – don't edit it. (This must be typed, at least 250 words.)

For the **meta-reflection**, read through your freewrite and note anything interesting that jumps out at you. Are there themes, conclusions, or questions that you see in what you wrote? Think about your thought process during the freewrite. How did you attack the readings? Is there anything you missed?

What do you find the most interesting about what you said? (This must be a minimum of 250 words, and both sections must be posted on the Canvas site on Mondays by 5pm.)

### **Uncovering Adaptations (5%)**

Each student will post a 250-word description of an adaptation you have discovered. Each student will also present their adaptation to the class on their assigned day. The presentations should lead to a discussion/reflection in the class on an interesting point or theme that offers opportunities for further development and exploration of the idea of adaptation.

### **Adaptacize!™ (5%)**

The weekly Adaptacize!™ provides a space for the regular practice of spontaneous creativity through a weekly challenge to conceptualize and create an adaptation in 15-20 minutes. Each Thursday at the end of class, we will give you a secret topic for that week's Adaptacize!™ This must be posted to the Canvas site by the start of class on the following Thursday. Do **not** look at your Adaptacize!™ topic until you are ready to start to work on it. This is about stretching your creative muscles in preparation for your final project. We do not want it to be too time-consuming.

### **Leading Discussion (5%)**

**Goal:** This is an opportunity for a pair of students to structure and facilitate the discussion of an assigned text(s). If possible, your group should focus on an aspect of the text(s) that is of interest to you, while at the same time addressing the concerns that are central to the text(s). You should facilitate, while not dominating, the discussion, and you should attempt to ensure that members of the group are not being excluded from the conversation.

**Structuring your lesson plan:** You may design the structure of the class however you see fit: use of questions or activities for the class; presentation of useful background material; etc. Please keep in mind, however, that your primary goal is to facilitate discussion of the text, not to entertain your classmates! If you can both entertain and instruct, wonderful; if you must choose, opt for the latter. You should also be sure to read your classmates' posts on the Canvas site. You are responsible for the first hour of Tuesday's class. *NOTE: The week you are assigned to lead discussion, you are excused from writing the freewrite and meta-reflection paper.*

### **Create an Adaptation Final Project (45%)**

Your project will be evaluated based on the rigor that you put into it. We want you to work hard on your project and to put both intellectual and creative energy into it.

- **Proposal (10%)** Due Tuesday of Week 6 (2/12); 1-2 pages describing your project, including content (what are you adapting), medium (how are you adapting), intent (why are you adapting), and work plan.
- **Project (20%)** Due March 18th
- **Presentation (5%)** Due on March 12, 14, or 18, depending on presentation time slot; This should be about a 5-minute presentation of your adaptation
- **Paper (10%)** Due March 18th, 5-7 pages, double-spaced

## **Class Meetings**

Week 1: "Stories are wondrous things. And they are dangerous."

Jan 8: Introduction to the course and the syllabus

Jan 10

- King, Thomas. *The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005. Chapter 1

Week 2: What is adaptation?

Jan 15

Discussion Leaders: Karl, Holly, and Logan (Research Commons, Red Room C) and Evangeline & Miranda (ART4)

- King, Thomas. *The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005. Chapters 2 and 4.
- Hutcheon, Linda. *A Theory of Adaptation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: Routledge, 2012. The Prefaces to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Editions, and Chapter 1.

Jan 17

Uncovering Adaptations Presentations

Week 3: Adaptation and postmodernism

Jan 21: *Adaption* at SIFF Film Center

Jan 22

Discussion Leaders: Marianna & Colin (Research Commons, Red Room C) and Andrea & Faith (ART4)

- Storey, John. "Postmodernism." *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction*. Harlow, England: Pearson Longman, 2009.
- Orlean, Susan. "Osceola's Head." *The Orchid Thief*. New York: Ballantine, 2002.

Jan 24

Uncovering Adaptations Presentations

Week 4: Adaptation and The Real

Jan 29

Discussion Leaders: Tavier & Rachel (Research Commons, Red Room C) and Catherine & Holly (ART4)

- Hutcheon, Linda. *A Theory of Adaptation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: Routledge, 2012. Chapter 2
- Baudrillard, Jean. "The Precession of Simulacra." In John Storey, Ed., *Cultural Studies and the Study of Popular Culture*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009. (Excerpt)
- Žižek, Slavoj. "Welcome to the Desert of the Real." *The Symptom*, Issue 2 Spring 2002 (<http://www.lacan.com/desertsym.htm>)

Jan 31

Uncovering Adaptations Presentations

Week 5: The who, why, and how of adaptation

Feb 5

Discussion Leaders: Alexandra & Cody (Research Commons, Red Room C) and Erin & Kaylee (ART4)

- Hutcheon, Linda. *A Theory of Adaptation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: Routledge, 2012. Chapter 3 & 4

Feb 7

Uncovering Adaptations Presentations

Week 6: "You've heard it now." The ethics of storytelling

Feb 12

Discussion Leaders: Shannon & Heather (Research Commons, Red Room C) and Evangeline & Jessica (ART4)

- Hutcheon, Linda. *A Theory of Adaptation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: Routledge, 2012. Chapter 5, 6, and Epilogue
- Proposal Due

Feb 14

Uncovering Adaptations Presentations

Week 7: Getting messy and working on projects

Feb 18: *Hellzapoppin'* at SIFF Film Center

Feb 19 & Feb 21 Project consultations

Week 8: Getting messy and working on projects

Feb 26 Project consultations

Feb 28 In-class talk from the 'Czar of Noir,' Eddie Muller

Week 9: Getting messy and working on projects

Mar 4: Movie at SIFF Film Center with Charles Mudede

Mar 5 & Mar 7 Project consultations

Week 10 and Exam Week: Final Presentations

Mar 12

Final Presentations

Mar 14

Final Presentations

Mar 18 (10-30-12:20, location TBD)

Final Presentations