

# WORDS INTO FILM. THE PRACTICE OF ADAPTATION – 5 Creds.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course addresses the comparison between written and filmed narratives considering the convergences and divergences in the modes of storytelling. After establishing a framework for the study of literature and film, a survey will be made of the various approaches to the study of adaptation ranging from classics such as *Bluestone* (1956) and *McFarlane* (1996) to recent developments such as *Stam* (2000) and *Hutcheon* (2006). A wide range of source texts including literary and popular narratives, short stories, graphic novels and comics will provide the testing ground for theories and approaches with a focus on the problem-solving nature of film adaptation. The course sessions will cover: (a) The phenomenon of film adaptation: origins, types and theories; (b) Narrative categories: narrator, point of view, space and time, narrative comprehension; (c) Background: culture and film industry, audiences, genres and spectacles; (d) Problems and solutions: *Mansfield Park* (dir. Patricia Rozema), *The Hours* (dir. Stephen Daldry), *Adaptation* (dir. Spike Jonze), *Invictus* (dir. Clint Eastwood), *District 9* (dir. Neill Blomkamp), *A History of Violence* (dir. David Cronenberg), *Sin City* (dir. Frank Miller, Robert Rodriguez), *American Splendor* (dir. Shari Springer Berman, Robert Pulcini),

## EVALUATION

- Attendance and active participation in class: 20%
- Final essay: 80%

