Spring 2000

ENG 225: Film and Novel

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Course Syllabus for English 225: Film and Novel, Spring, 2000
Dr. Mike Vanden Bosch, Professor of English

A. Course Title: Film and Novel

B. Description: This course aims to show some key similarities and some key differences between the print medium and the film medium in telling a story. We will do so by first reading a novel and then watching a film based on that novel. We will also try to discern how authors and directors may change the basic meaning of a film. Students will discuss both books and films in small and large groups, and then write papers comparing and contrasting book and film. Students will read 9 novels, see 10 films, write 2 exams, write 2 papers, and turn in (or email) responses to three films (on films not written about in your papers).

C. Course Goals:
   1. Students will become more perceptive viewers of film and more perceptive readers.
   2. Students will become knowledgeable about several classics in print and film.
   3. Students will become better writers about film and fiction.
   4. Students will understand the problems dealt with in the several books and films and be able to articulate a Christian response to these problems.

D. Course schedule for Film and Novel

1-12-2000 Introduce course. See Tender Mercies directed by Bruce Beresford.


2-9-2000 Discuss Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe.


2-23-2000 Discuss The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman by E. Gaines (246 pages). See the film, directed by John Korty. FIRST PAPER DUE


3-8-2000 Compare book and film of Cry, the Beloved Country (1 hour) Midsemester Test (1:10 minutes)
Spring Break


3-29-2000  Finish discussing *O Pioneers!*
Discus the film *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (208 pages).

4-5-2000  See *Lord of the Flies*, directed by Peter Brook.
Compare book and film

4-12-2000  Discuss the book *Black Robe* by Brian Moore.
See the film *Black Robe*, directed by Bruce Beresford.

SECOND PAPER DUE

Discuss *Dead Man Walking*, by Sister Helen Prejean.


5-3-2000  Final Exam, Wed., May 3, 6:45 p.m.

E. Methods of Instruction: lecture, discussion (large and small group), film, blackboard, writing and feedback on writing.

F. Students will view 10 films in class and view the films on which they write a second time.
On two tests, students will be asked to compare books and films based on the books, as well as compare or contrast how one film or book treats the same theme.

G. Students will be evaluated on the basis of two tests (50%), two papers (30%), film responses (10%), and participation in class discussion (10%).

H. Texts: *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens,
*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller,
Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe,
The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman by Ernest Gaines,
*Cry the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton,
*O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather,
*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding,
*Black Robe* by Brian Moore,
*Dead Man Walking* by Sister Helen Prejean.
Film and Novel Reading Schedule

1. **A Tale of Two Cities** by Charles Dickens  
   Signet Classic 0-451-51959-0  
   Read by Jan. 19

2. **The Crucible** by Arthur Miller  
   (Read by Feb. 2)

3. **Uncle Tom's Cabin** by Harriet Beecher Stowe  
   Read by Feb. 9

4. **The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman** by Ernest J. Gaines  
   Read by Feb. 23

5. **Cry, the Beloved Country**, by Alan Paton  
   Read by March 1

6. **O Pioneers** by Willa Cather  
   Read by March 22

7. **Lord of the Flies** by William Golding  
   Read by March 29

8. **Black Robe** by Brian Moore  
   Fawcett 0-449-20947-0  
   Read by April 12

9. **Dead Man Walking** by Sister Helen Prejean  
   Vintage  
   Read by April 19