

Course Description

Course Unit

Cinema and Literature

UC Code

LAC2.97342

ECTS Credits

6 ECTS

Work Hours

168H (6 ECTS)

Level

BA

Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S2

Faculty

Cecilia Beecher Martins

Class

TP 2

Language of instruction

English

Class Description

From the earliest cave drawings to the latest video clips, humankind has used every medium available to create art and trigger storytelling, which may be why cinema and literature are so popular today. But what makes a book a classic? A film, great? Carefully crafted plots and intelligent character development contribute to this. But that is not all. Each art form has its own language and expert directors and authors know how to use the tools of these languages to create the desired effects. Therefore, we will examine the “languages” of literature and cinema while discussing the tools each art form uses to create meaning.

Syllabus:

- 1.Introduction to and use of the concepts of literary close reading
- 2.The historic development of cinematic techniques
- 3.Introduction to visual literacy applied to film & TV (principles of mise-en-scene and post-production in cinematic meaning making)
- 4.POV and voice in literature and film
- 5.Analysis of literary texts and films using the above techniques
- 6.Adaptation from text to screen
7. Students' autonomous analysis of cinema and literature using the techniques presented in class

Grading and Assessment

Teaching methodology:

A student-centered teaching approach will be used following a task-based methodology. Materials will be presented in an orderly succession so that students can build up their knowledge on subjects discussed sequentially. A proactive posture will be expected from students. They will be provided with a calendar indicating all of the readings/viewings and evaluations at the beginning of the semester to prepare for these in advance.

Evaluation Criteria

1st Written test: 50% - this will be divided into a theoretical section and a second section with practical exercises based on the theoretical contents. The first written test is mandatory for all students.

2nd Written test or Oral & Written Presentation 30% - the second moment of evaluation will be based on the students' individual work with one of the mandatory novel/film sets. Students must choose one (and only one) option. The deadline for the selection of the option will be stipulated by the lecturer.

Attendance and participation (20%) This grade will require participation in the reflective discussion of the subjects presented in class. Each student will be responsible for the discussion of at least one theoretical text or practical exercise.

As this Curricular Unit is taught in English oral presentations must be made in English. Written evaluations may be presented in English or Portuguese.

Mandatory autonomous reading and viewing

During the course of the semester students must work individually and autonomously with one of the following research sets:

Set 1 Book: To Kill a Mocking Bird (Harper Lee, 1960)

Film: To Kill a Mocking Bird (Dir. Robert Mulligan, 1965)

Set 2 Book: The Perks of being a Wallflower (Stephen Chbosky, 1999)

Film: The Perks of being a Wallflower (Dir. Stephen Chbosky, 2012)

Set 3 Book: Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI (David Grann, 2017)

Film: Killers of the Flower Moon (Dir. Martin Scorsese, 2023)

Set 4 Book: Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors and the Drug Company that Addicted America (Beth Macy, 2018)

TV miniseries: Dopesick. (Showrunner Danny Strong, 2021)

Bibliography

A B2 level of the English language and a taste for cinema and literature are recommended

Prerequisites (if applicable)

A B2 level of the English language and a taste for cinema and literature are recommended