

Final Project for English 201-70
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Literature on Film

Throughout the session we have been analyzing printed texts alongside film versions of them in an attempt to understand each more thoroughly. For your final project (which can be done as an individual or as part of a group), you will do a similar analysis of text/film of your own choosing. Our studies have been focused on adult literature, but you could take a look at young adult or even children's literature if you prefer (the same techniques, both narrative and cinematic, are at work). Moreover, we have tended to look at canonical literature, but you could certainly include genre (e.g., Westerns, Detective) or popular pieces in your project's study.

Minimum Requirements:

- Photocopies of the text you're discussing (enough copies for the whole class)
- Movie (DVD or VHS) to show
- Lead a discussion in which you talk about the movie director's or screenwriter's interpretation of the original author's text, and what conclusions we might draw from the interpretation. (Note: We have not spent a great deal of time on film techniques, but including some mention of film technique versus narrative technique would be a positive.)
- The length of your presentation is somewhat flexible, depending somewhat on the total number of presentations we will have, but you should probably figure 15 to 30 minutes. I would think it would be difficult to present anything worth presenting in fewer than 15 minutes.
- For those of you doing a group project, know that you don't have to be of "one mind"; perhaps different group members will have different ways of interpreting your texts, and that's all right—a little difference of perspective might be even more interesting.

Options to Consider:

- We have limited our analyses to one text and one film version of it, but some texts have spawned multiple film versions. It could be interesting to look at the same scene from two different directors' interpretations (we just have to be careful of being overlong in our presentation).
- In addition to the photocopies of the text you're analyzing itself, you may want to have another handout in which you highlight your key points and/or isolate significant quoted dialogue, etc.
- Your project will be intertextual by its very nature (meaning that you're analyzing both print text and film text), but if you wanted to bring in yet another sort of "text" that relates to your presentation (advertising, music, art, pop art, architecture, etc.), that would also be interesting (again, we have to be mindful of time).

- There is probably much published criticism (i.e., analysis) of the texts you're doing; you could read up on some of that criticism and share your findings as part of your presentation (if you do a handout, quoting/citing the criticism would be a good addition).

Remember that these options are just that: optional. I want you focusing the majority of your time and mental energy on your final paper. You can certainly do just fine (i.e., get an "A") by doing the minimum requirements. Don't sacrifice the quality of your paper by juicing up your project.