

Questions:

Adaptation

1. What is an adaptation?

It depends on who you ask! I would like us to come up with our own definition of adaptation by the end of the semester. Here are some of the most influential scholars in the field of adaptation studies and their definitions:

Fischlin and Fortier define adaptation as “any act of alteration performed upon specific cultural works of the past and dovetails with a general process of cultural recreation.”

Linda Hutcheon describes adaptation as: “An acknowledged transposition of a recognizable other work or works. A creative and an interpretive act of appropriating/salvaging. An extended intertextual engagement with the adapted work. An adaptation is a deviation that is not derivative...it is its own palimpsestic thing.”

Julie Sanders defines adaptation as: “reinterpretations of established texts in a new generic contexts or perhaps with relocations of an “original” or source text's cultural and/or temporal setting, which may or may not involve a generic shift.”

2. What is the difference adaptation and copyright?

Great question! Many of the times the legal definition of a derivative work is fuzzy, which is why we have many different cases on copyright infringement. What constitutes a piece of intellectual property is constantly changing. Overall we are talking about the degrees of difference between the original and the new work. We will ask this question in class, to see what people think of when a new work emerges from an existing one.

3. What makes a film an adaptation?

Usually, if the film takes its source material from another medium (book, comic). However, an adaptation could also be a “reboot” or “reimagining” of another film.

4. Does an adaptation be a movie based on real events or does it have to come from a book?

We can talk about this in class, but I believe adaptations should include real life events. The film is going to change a few things and I would assume those changes would slightly alter the way we see the events. I think a great example of this is *American Sniper*, which frames the narrative slightly different from the source material.

5. Can every work of fiction be an adaptation because of the shared structures and stories? Walter Benjamin says “storytelling is always the art of repeating stories.” I think we are talking about degrees of difference. When does a story become unique? When does it become its own identity, outside of its influences? We will discuss this throughout the semester.

6. Difference between spin-off and adaptation?

If we take Sander’s or Hutcheon’s definition of adaptation, then spin offs would be included in adaptations. My take is if you need to know the source text in order to understand the story of the spin-off or could the spin-off stand on its own.

7. Why are adaptations created?

Big question. I hope this will be the basis of my first book. So my take is that we need to reimagine our past through re-contextualizing our myths and stories. Now the motivations for why we do this is a little more difficult to answer without touching upon many other topics. We will talk about this in class. Great question!

8. Does it matter which Crusoe version we get?

Yes and No. Most editions will include the strange 18th century spellings, lists, charts, and prefatory material. I think it is important to know the work as it originally was produced. You can find these types of editions from any major publisher in the last 20 years. You want to stay away from editions produced before the 1970s, they change the grammar and spelling quite a bit.

9. How can I not fall behind in the reading?

It is important to read everyday! If you read at least 20-25 pages a night, you will stay on top of it. Some courses require you to read a book a week, while this provides some great conversation, it is difficult for most people to do. Just try to read something when you get downtime. If you read one T.V. shows worth of time a night, then you will be fine! Also, you can read ahead if you think you are going to have a difficult week!

10. What do we need to focus on in the readings for the quizzes?

The quizzes will be a combination of “what happened” and “what do you think” questions. Just pay attention to the plot most of all.

11. How long do we need to lead when we are discussing?

10 minutes or so. The easiest thing to do is to introduce your questions for discussion and respond back to the class' comments.

12. Will the Frankensteins really be that different?

Yes! There are approximately 200 changes to the text in the 1831 edition. One example is the character of Elizabeth, who is the cousin of Victor and then becomes his adopted sister in the 1818 edition, while she is abandoned as a child and adopted by Victor's family in the 1831 edition. In the story, they get married. Would you view Victor different if he married his blood related sister or his non-blood related sister?

13. What should we write in the blog post?

I will provide you an example. Just focus in on a scene or a line or two and talk about why you think it is important to the story or to the culture?

14. What about the Final Project?

It is pretty opened ended. Please see me if you want to discuss potential projects. We will decide

15. What makes Robinson Crusoe apart of the literary cannon?

It was the first time in history that a continuous narrative had been written with the specific aim of creating the illusion of everyday living centered around a single individual.

16. What is repeated lateness?

Repeated lateness is a pattern behavior. If you are late every class or every class for a few weeks or late every Tuesday, then I consider that repeated lateness.

17. How close should we be reading?

Just try to make it through the reading. Stop and note any places that interest you or sound weird and try to think about why it makes you feel that way.

18. It has been a while since I read, will it be hard to keep up?

These are plot heavy books, so it should be easy to stay engaged reading. Crusoe is tough because English in the 18th century is a little different than it is today. Every other work is in modern English.

19. How much does one absence effect our grade?

You are allowed two (2) absences, so one (1) will not lower your grade. However, 3 absences will lower your grade in the class.

20. How have past students done in this class?

This is my first time teaching 123, but in my 105 classes, students that put in a good effort do well. I'm not asking you to be a great writer, but I am asking you to read and stay engaged with the material.

21. What is the most difficult book i've read?

Hands down James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*. It has been described as "dream prose."

22. Is the rolling schedule likely to be very difficult?

No. The rolling schedule just allows us to adjust based on in class discussion and pace.

23. Whats your favorite color?

Orange. I only own one shirt in this color though.

24. What does the quote "The ceiling is the roof" mean?

On the surface, it sounds like Michael Jordan was being redundant. However, some people think Jordan was talking about Kenan Stadium not the Dean Smith Center, which essentially tells us that there is no ceiling (no limit) for UNC football? A Duke professor said this: "So the traditional dictionary definition of a ceiling is the surface on the inside of the room. That's what the ceiling is. The roof is the surface that covers the building. But an arena is one giant room, so the ceiling is the roof." Jordan seems to be calling for a community of people to cheer for UNC, we are not just fans of one player or one "room?"