

If I have only 80 words left to write, what is my minimum word length?

I think you can get a good point in at 150 words, but it is tough!

Why do we not do more movie->book or book->poetry adaptations?

I guess this could mean in context of our class or in society. There are quite a few novelizations of movies (most major movies have a novelization), but in my experience, they are not good and hard to find. Usually, the studio contracts a writer to turn the script into a novel and the author isn't usually that invested in the work, other than to make money. There are quite a few poems that reference novels, but none that really adapt a work directly. Poetry operates a little different than traditional fiction and takes a whole other set of interpretative methods to fully understand. If I would teach an Introduction to Poetry class, I would certainly include these intertextual poems. But I have not come across many straight adaptations of novels into poems, although there are many Robinson Crusoe poems that were made in the 19th century.

Can food be a medium?

Yes! I think food can be another text to "read." One of my good friends teaches a course on the philosophy of food and uses food to think about philosophical concepts. Fusion food could be understood as appropriation or adaptation--does it use another dish's name or not or is the dish recognizable as its original form; and as pastiche or parody--does this dish create something new through adaptation or does it utilize nostalgia?

How much of our grade will our final project take up?

If you look on the syllabus (available on our website and Sakai), you will see the grade breakdown (the final project is worth 30 points out of the 100 in the class). It will take up 1/3 of your grade. Also, you want to keep in mind that your presentation is 10 points (since it is taking place of the final exam).

How much to write on a drawing (for final project)?

I think if you just write a museum label length that should be good (80 words). Here is a resource for you: <https://australianmuseum.net.au/writing-text-and-labels>

Favorite Adaptation Ever?

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies

Favorite Appropriation Ever?

Ex Machina

Has there been a work that's been adopted as an adaptation then done as a pastiche?

I think *Gone With The Wind* the movie is an example of this. It is adapted from a book then made into a movie that operates as pastiche/nostalgia.

Why is patchwork style used in adaptation?

Great question! I think it is because we recognize that a new work is both separate and linked to a previous work, so I think stiches or patchwork becomes the manifestation of that creative process of linking together discrete intellectual properties of the past.

Out of the novels we read, which one is my favorite?

Most of my research is on *Robinson Crusoe*, because I have always been fascinated on why this story of a shipwrecked 18th century British man continues to be so compelling today.

What are some of the best examples of patchwork?

Patchwork Girl is pretty amazing, I would encourage you to watch the videos I posted on the schedule under Thanksgiving. *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* is not only an adaptation of a novel by the same name (an adaptation of the original *Pride and Prejudice*), but it recognizes that it is a movie adaptation that appropriates imagery from other *Pride and Prejudice* movies. Essentially the movie is a patchwork of images from previous Austen movies. *Mr. Pip* (the novel, not the movie) is a pretty interesting because it uses *Great Expectations* in the story (the students in the class read the book), but it also is an appropriation of *Great Expectations* (it tells a similar story). It is a patchwork of different places, times, and perspectives.

What is Bricolage?

It is construction or creation of words or stories from a diverse range of available things. “The chaotic bricolage of the novel is brought together in a unifying gesture of the explosion.”

Why did I choose the books I did? Is there anything you wish we could have read?

Since this course is titled, “Introduction to Fiction” I thought it might be helpful to think about how fiction operates as adaptation. I pulled together the most interesting works I read as an undergraduate (with the exception of *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, which was a newer read). Also, I wanted to expose you to a wide range of authors and settings, to show you that we write very differently based upon who the author is, where they grew up, and what language they write in. One of my favorite books is *White Noise* by Don DeLillo, I wish I could have taught that, but I think it might be more appropriate for an advanced English class.

Will the Exam Focus on concepts and terms or will it focus on the context of the readings themselves? Or Both?

We are not having a formal final, the class voted to replace the final with a 5-minute presentation of their final project. Please see the last few Announcements on Sakai about this or our class website under assignments.

Are there more books that you know that have some type of similarities?

I would argue that most of the books you encounter owe something to a story or book before them, you just have to pay attention and keep on reading more. You will encounter a lot of Shakespeare adaptations once you start looking. I mentioned *Mr. Pip* and *Great Expectations* as one example of this in a previous example.

What is the importance of learning about adaptation?

I think a good way to think about how fiction works is to think about adaptation. To start to identify and ask why someone would want to retell a story can help us better understand our world. What gets changed in a story is often a reflection of the values and culture of the society that created it. Therefore, adaptation is an easy way to better understand our world and the stories that create it. I hope adaptation gets you thinking about why we tell the same fictional stories over and over again.

What is pastiche?

Pastiche is style without substance. It is adaptation without commentary. Frederic Jameson has introduced the category of the 'nostalgic mode' to describe the way contemporary postmodern culture pastiches the past, representing it at the level of cultural **style**.

What would be the political commentary side of *Frankenstein in Baghdad*?

Another great question! I think what can be confusing about parody is that it does not have to make fun of the original text (*Young Frankenstein* seems to make fun of the 1931 movie). Parody is also a way that adaptation can comment about history. *Whatsitsname* is similar to the original creature in that they are both trying to make sense of their existence. And in the end, both exact some sort of revenge on their maker. However, in the context of this novel, vengeance is an ever-expanding and all consuming. Is the *Whatsitsname*'s real creator the suicide-bomber? The American forces? The Iraqi police? The text gives us insight into the folly of revenge and how revenge and war work together. Essentially, it is making fun of the American news narrative of the war in Iraq (think of the play between fact and fiction in reporting throughout the novel).

Is there anything besides explain our commentary that we should include in the final project presentation?

I think you want to convey why you used a particular text (*Frankenstein*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Jane Eyre*) and why you chose the form you did.

What career did you have before this?

I worked in retail technology at Gap and Apple from logistics to workforce management.

How many adaptation are there of *Jane Eyre* ?

There are hundreds, there is even a Wikipedia page dedicated to adaptations of *Jane Eyre*.

I skipped the *Jane Eyre* blog post, can I still just write on the Ackland Visit?

Yes!

Is an adaptation good if you can automatically tell where it came from? Or could it still be a bad one?

Yes it can still be good as long as it makes some sort of commentary or tries to reimagine it in a creative way.

How long do we need to make our final project presentation?

It should be 5 minutes long and take the form of 2-3 powerpoint slides or do a show and tell.

What kind of presentation do I expect you to do for the final if you are writing a creative paper?

Please reference the rubric on the assignments (on the course website) or reference the Sakai message about the presentations.

Why is the project due so early? We aren't presenting till the 13th, more time could make better projects.

I have to grade your projects and my other classes, which might take a long time. I had the project due before the final, since my grades are due on the 14th and won't have time to grade everything before my grades are due. Also, I will give you the opportunity to revise your final blog posts before the final for a higher grade. However, if you feel like you want more time on your project, I am more than happy to extend the due date (I just don't want you to be overwhelmed with your other finals and work). Please email me if you need a later due date.

How does intertextuality work?

The best way to think about intertextuality is through small things like characters, setting, images, terms, or objects. If the plot from another work is used, then it is a larger question of adaptation or appropriation. Intertextual is a smaller unit. Plot is usually a pretty big element of a text, so it works a little more than just intertextuality.

What would not be considered adaptation? Considering most works have some form of adaptation in them.

Essentially, we are talking about degrees of adaptation. We need to think about the difference between an intertextual element and adaptation. If there are just images from another text that show up, we wouldn't call it an adaptation of that text, but just call attention to the intertextual elements. It is the degree to which another text borrows from another. So something like plot is pretty essential to a story, so if something takes the plot from another story, then it is an adaptation. But if something that takes just a character name and none of the plot, then it is an intertextual element.

Is there a class offered that is meant to follow this class?

There is not an intermediate or advanced fiction class, but there are a few faculty members in the English department that are also interested in adaptation. James Thompson, Jeanne Moskal, or Beverly Taylor all teach classes that center around adaptation. Usually there are quite a few courses that touch on adaptation here are some the department is offering for the Spring: ENGL 340, ENGL 442, ENGL 638.

Do I think that certain adaptations start out as pastiche and then obtain a social commentary afterwards?

Intent and purpose are always difficult to identify, unless the artist/author/director goes out and states this purpose (which is extremely rare). I think there is a way that you can make something stylish that could comment about style or about aesthetics that might start out as a pastiche and move into commentary. There has been some debate in the past about the films of David Lynch and how they might be overly stylized at the cost of any true commentary.