School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEA206/306
Popular Fiction: From Page to Screen
Semester 2, 2006
www.utas.edu.au/units/HEA206

Convenor:	**Dr Lisa Fletcher** **Room:** HUM 566 **Phone:** 6226 1725 **Email:** Lisa.Fletcher@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Mondays 10 am - 12 pm
Tutors:	The tutors in this unit are Lisa Fletcher and Claire Knowles. **Dr Claire Knowles** **Room:** HUM 562 **Phone:** 6226 1722 **Email:** Claire.Knowles@utas.edu.au
Unit Description:	This unit examines the intersections between the fields of popular fiction and film. Students will analyse a range of popular narratives and their film adaptations (eg. *Harry Potter*, *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *I, Robot*). The unit introduces key aspects of the study of popular texts: genre analysis, the function of the author/celebrity, fans and readerships, representation and ideology, and marketing and 'franchises'. In particular, *Popular Fiction: from Page to Screen* focuses on the process of transformation that takes place when written texts are adapted for a visual medium.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	The aims of this unit are to enable students to: • engage critically and analytically with a range of popular texts and their film adaptations; • consider the relationship between popular novels and their film adaptations; and • identify and investigate some of the key topics in contemporary popular fiction studies such as readers and fans, genres, and the representation of gender and sexuality through engagement with relevant secondary material.

Learning Outcomes:	Students taking this unit will: 1. build *knowledge* in the areas described in the Unit Aims and Objectives (above); 2. enhance skills in: a) written *communication*, with special emphasis on writing practice in the form of essays, and b) oral *communication*, through participation in tutorial activities; and 3. enhance skills in *problem solving* through assessment tasks and tutorial activities, which develop critical analysis techniques in English.
Required Texts:	**Required:** Unit Reader (available July 2006) J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan* (Puffin Classics) J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (Bloomsbury) Agatha Christie, *Murder on the Orient Express* (HarperCollins) James Ellroy, *L.A. Confidential* (Arrow) Helen Fielding, *Bridget Jones's Diary* (Picador) Thomas Harris, *Silence of the Lambs* (Arrow) **Recommended:** Ken Gelder *Popular Fiction: The Logics and Practices of a Literary Field* (Routledge) David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson *Film Art: An Introduction* 7th ed. (McGraw Hill)
When Taught:	**Lectures:** Wednesday 10.00 am - 10.50 am, Arts Lecture Theatre **Screenings:** Wednesday 11.00 am - 12.50 pm, Arts Lecture Theatre **Tutorials:** 1 x 80 minutes, Weeks 14-26 Wed 1.10 pm - 2.30 pm HUM 548 Wed 2.30 pm - 3.50 pm HUM 477B Fri 10.00 am - 11.20 pm SOCSCI 313 Fri 2.10 pm - 3.30 pm HUM 548
Assessment:	1,000-word reading assignment(s) (20%), 2,000 word essay (40%), 2-hr exam (40%)

LECTURE/SCREENING SCHEDULE

Week Beginning	Module	Topic
17 Jul		**Lecture:** Introduction: Studying Popular Texts **No Screening**
24 Jul	**Module 1: Readers and Spectators**	**Lecture:** "An Awfully Big Adventure…" J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* **Screening:** *Peter Pan*. Dir. Clyde Geronimi et al. Disney. 1953.
31 Jul		**Lecture:** The Disney Version **Screening:** *Peter Pan.* Dir. P.J. Hogan. 2003.
7 Aug		**Lecture:** Reading Muggles: J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* **Screening:** *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Dir. Chris Columbus. 2001.
14 Aug		**Lecture:** Harry on Screen **Workshop:** Studying Film Note: The workshop will take place in the Arts Lecture Theatre, 11.00 am - 12.50 pm. This workshop introduces key terms in film analysis.
21 Aug	**Module 2: Genre and Ideology**	**Lecture:** Genre and Ideology: Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* **Screening:** *Murder on the Orient Express*. Dir. Sidney Lumet, 1964.
28 Aug		**Lecture:** Film Genres: The Whodunnit
4 Sep		**MID-SEMESTER BREAK**
11 Sep		**Lecture:** "… the greatest crime novelist who has ever lived": James Ellroy's *L.A. Confidential* **Screening:** *L.A. Confidential*. Dir. Curtis Hanson, 1997.
18 Sep		**Lecture:** Neo-noir: Curtis Hanson's *L.A. Confidential* **No Screening**
25 Sep	**Module 3: Gender and Sexuality**	**Lecture**: The Serial Killer Novel: Thomas Harris's *The Silence of the Lambs* **Screening:** *The Silence of the Lambs*. Dir. Jonathan Demme. 1991.
2 Oct		**Lecture:** The Serial Killer Movie: Thomas Harris's *The Silence of the Lambs* **No Screening**
9 Oct		**Lecture:** "Date with Darcy": Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones's Diary* **Screening:** *Bridget Jones's Diary*. Dir. Sharon Maguire. 2001.
16 Oct		**Lecture:** Bridget Jones/Renee Zellweger and Mark Darcy/Colin Firth: Celebrity Fictions **No Screening**
		Study Period: 23 October – 27 October 2006
		Examination Period: 28 October – 14 November 2006

ASSIGNMENTS

Assessment in this unit takes the form of reading assignments, a research essay to be submitted during the semester, and a formal examination in the examination period.

READING ASSIGNMENTS (1000 words total)
The reading assignments relate to the Primary Texts and Secondary Reading for the first half of semester (see Tutorial Guide). Students have two options. Students who select Option 1 will complete two 500 word assignments. Students who select Option 2 will complete one 1000 word short essay. The Reading Assignment(s) are worth 20% of your final mark.

The reading assignment(s) will assess learning outcomes 1, 2a and 3.

RESEARCH ESSAY (2000 words)
The research essay will focus on the texts studied in Module 1 and Module 2. The research essay is worth 40% of your final mark.

This assignment will assess learning outcomes 1, 2a and 3.

EXAMINATION (2 hours)
The examination will be scheduled in the official examination period. The timetable is posted to all eligible students and published on the School notice boards.

This assignment will assess learning outcomes 1, 2a and 3.

Assessment and Attendance Requirements

- Eligibility to sit the examination depends upon the completion and submission of all written work.
- You are expected to attend all tutorials; if your attendance drops below 8 tutorials you may be excluded from the exam.
- The school will notify students of the final date that any work will be accepted.

If your tutorial attendance has not met the requirements, you may also be required to do additional work in order to be eligible to sit the end-of-semester examination.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism or in the Student Information Handbook. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office. All written assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email or other electronic means) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments. Assignments will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted.

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Student Counsellor
- Careers Adviser
- Disability Adviser

University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.
If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html.
The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/ "
The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

Assignment Presentation

The English discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003).

Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- Effectiveness of introduction
- Relevance and coherence of argument
- Effectiveness of conclusion
- Scope of textual referencing
- Use of critics
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading and stylesheet.