
Short Story Into Film

OSHER 213-001

Dates: Tuesdays: October 15 – November 17

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Online via Zoom

Instructor: Scott Williams

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Course Description:

Great movies rely on a masterful cinematic narrative, that often originates with a short story. In this course, we will read the little-known short stories that inspired directors, Elia Kazan, Alfred Hitchcock, and Stephen Spielberg's productions of three Hollywood classics: "A Face in the Crowd" (1957), "Rear Window" (1954), and "The Minority Report" (2002). **After reading each short story, class members will view the movie adaptation at home and come prepared to discuss and compare the literary and cinematic narratives in class**

Expectations and Goals:

Class members will read a short story before the 1st, 3rd and 5th class sessions and come prepared to discuss the stories on their own merits, including an analysis of the context, setting, plot, characters, literary devices and themes. Relevant information will also be discussed regarding the author of the story

Class members will then watch at home the full feature film adaptation for each of the short stories before the 2nd, 4th and 6th class sessions. The class discussion will involve a complete analysis of the film on its own merit as well as comparisons to the short story that served as the initial inspiration.

Class Members should read "Your Arkansas Traveler" by Budd Schulberg prior to the 1st class on October 13, 2020.

Required Materials:

A copy of each short story will be emailed to each class member a week in advance. They will also be provided with information on how to view each of the three films including the



possibility of an online link to view the film for free through the University of Utah Marriott Library system.

Optional Materials and Texts:

Any Information students want to review on analyzing short stories and understanding cinematic techniques will enhance the value of this class

Course Overview:

- Week 1:** Short Story-
"Your Arkansas Traveler" (1953),
By Budd Schulberg
- Week 2:** Film Adaptation-
"A Face in the Crowd," (1957),
Producer and Director, Elia Kazan;
Screenplay by Budd Schulberg
Starring Andy Griffith, Patricia Neal, and Walter Matthau
- Week 3:** Short Story-
"It Had to be Murder" (1942) By Cornell Woolrich
- Week 4:** Film Adaptation-
"Rear Window," (1954),
Producer and Director, Alfred Hitchcock
Screenplay by John Michael Hayes
Starring James Stewart and Grace Kelly
- Week 5:** Short Story-
"The Minority Report" (1956), By Philip K. Dick
- Week 6:** Film Adaptation-
"Minority Report," (2002)
Directed by Steven Spielberg
Screenplay by Scott Frank and Jon Cohen
Starring Tom Cruise, Max Von Sydow, Samantha Morton and Colin Ferrell