Students in this course will explore approaches to the art, theory, and cultural politics of movie adaptations. Through readings and screenings, students will be asked to interrogate these and other questions: What is the nature of the "literary" and the "cinematic?" Why do so many of the films described as adaptations derive from canonical literature rather than from other sources? How do the different media affect the ways in which stories are told? Why is the book always "better" than the movie? To support students in developing and focusing their own theories of adaptation, we will also be reading selected adaptation theory and criticism, including writings by Andre Bazin, Robert Stam, and Judith Mayne.

Our primary texts might include *Fight Club*, *Devil in a Blue Dress*, *Contempt*, and *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Since the early years of cinema, filmmakers have focused on the figure of the child in film to not only document the early stages of life but as a means for reflecting on and exploring what it means to be human. Focusing on films with child protagonists who are not yet “teenagers,” this course will study childhood films from the past thirty years as a means for exploring how the figure of the child and childhood function in global films.


*Satisfies GER Credits in Humanities*
This course offers an in-depth look at contemporary television with an emphasis on content, the industry, and technology. We will examine many aspects of the business and pleasure of making and watching television through a focus on show-runners and writers, changing genres and programming conventions, shifting technologies, social media, webTV and streaming content—and how all these factors influence television storytelling and our overflowing media culture.

Screening examples will include: Better Call Saul, Empire, Parks and Rec, Lost, Saturday Night Live, The Walking Dead, No Reservations, Fresh Off the Boat, House of Cards, Hell’s Kitchen, American Idol, Girls, The Bridge, Between Two Ferns, Homeland and more.

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ARThIST/FILMSTD 307: Film Directors
Global Queer Auteurs: Fassbinder/Akerman/Tsai
Fall 2016 - TR 2:00 – 4:30 PM, Elena Gorfinkel, Curtin 104

This course considers the films and lives of three of the most significant directors in the history of world cinema- New German Cinema's 'enfant terrible' Rainer Werner Fassbinder; aesthetically radical Belgian feminist and queer filmmaker Chantal Akerman; and Malay-born Taiwanese "slow" filmmaker Tsai Ming-liang. We will contrast and juxtapose some of the defining motifs and themes of their singular film styles and aesthetics, and we will consider the queer identity of each of the film's makers and the queerness of their films as an opening out onto larger more global questions in cinema and politics.

Films to be screened may include: Beware of a Holy Whore, Jeanne Dielman 23 Quai du Commerce 1080 Bruxelles, Vive L'Amour.

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ENG/FILMSTD 391: TV Criticism & Theory
Television Studies and the TV Industry
Fall 2016 - MW 10:00 – 11:50 AM, Tasha Oren, Curtin 104

This course offers an in-depth look at contemporary television with an emphasis on content, the industry, and technology. We will examine many aspects of the business and pleasure of making and watching television through a focus on show-runners and writers, changing genres and programming conventions, shifting technologies, social media, webTV and streaming content—and how all these factors influence television storytelling and our overflowing media culture.

Screening examples will include: Better Call Saul, Empire, Parks and Rec, Lost, Saturday Night Live, The Walking Dead, No Reservations, Fresh Off the Boat, House of Cards, Hell’s Kitchen, American Idol, Girls, The Bridge, Between Two Ferns, Homeland and more.
The class explores the works of Latina and Latin American women directors since the 1980s. We will study their films and how they engage with discourses of gender, politics and aesthetics in relation to notions of Latinidad and Latin Americanness.

A partial list of the filmmakers includes:

Suzana Amaral (Brazil), María Luisa Bemberg (Argentina), Patricia Cardoso (USA), Lucrecia Martel (Argentina), María Novaro (Mexico), Euzhan Palcy (Martinique), Lourdes Portillo (USA), Fina Torres (Venezuela)

This course counts towards the following undergraduate degrees:

- Film Studies
- Latino Studies
- Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies (integrated course)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies
- Women’s and Gender Studies