English/Film Studies 329 Film and Literature

Special Focus on: Young Adult Adaptation

Summer 2017 June 26-July 22

Instructor: Benjamin Schneider terrapin@uwm.edu

Course Description:

Through a focus on contemporary young adult novels and films, this course will explore approaches to the art, theory, and cultural politics of adaptation, even challenging what is meant by the term “adaptation” itself. Through readings and screenings, students will be asked to interrogate these and other questions: Why did they ruin my favorite book? What is the nature of the “literary” and the “cinematic”? Why do so many of the films described as adaptations derive from canonical literature or texts that are popular in their contemporary moment? How do the different media affect the ways in which stories are told? Is the book always “better” than the movie?

We will spend the majority of our time during the course discussing readings and screenings (worth 45% of your semester grade). Three short essays and quizzes make up the remainder of the course work.