“It’s no news to anyone that not only adaptations, but all art is bred of other art, though sometimes artists seem to get carried away.”

---Linda Hutcheon, “In Defence of Literary Adaptation as Cultural Production”

“The question adaptation study has most persistently asked—in what ways does and should an intertext resemble its precursor text in another medium?—could more usefully be configured in dialogic terms: How and why does any one particular precursor text or set of texts come to be privileged above all others in the analysis of a given intertext? What gives some intertexts but not others the aura of texts? More generally, in what ways are precursor texts rewritten, as they always are whenever they are read?”

--Thomas Leitch, “Twelve Fallacies in Contemporary Adaptation Theory”

This course will explore the process of how adaptation works to reflect and shape cultural ideology, from literary retellings of tales that began in the oral folk tradition to books based on movies. Our first semester will focus on the study of adaptation theory and its application to a common list of primary texts, which may include variations of Cinderella, Peter Pan, The Wizard of Oz, and The Orchid Thief. Our second semester will focus on individual research and writing projects. Students may produce an extended critical analysis of approximately 25 pages or a literary adaptation of at least 20 pages supported by a critical essay of 5 pages.