In the novel, you start with a bag of words, and the way you put the words together has meaning. In the movies, you get another kind of vocabulary. You have little bits of film strips, each the equivalent of words—five words or five thousand. But the strips are put together as individual words. –Norman Mailer

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** We will analyze corresponding literary and film texts in terms of both theme and style. To do this, we must develop a basic understanding of both written narrative style (point of view, characterization, structure, setting, symbol, language, and sentence patterns) and distinctive elements of film style (composition, editing, camera angle and distance, camera movement, sound, music, lighting, acting). Besides discussing the internal complications of translating a written work to the big screen, we will consider cultural influences, such as history, economics, and politics. As you can see from this distilled description, there are a lot of issues. Mostly, I hope you will come away from the class with a better understanding of both written and visual texts and an ability to articulate your critique of those differences.

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND SUPPLIES:**
- *Film Art, 6th edition,* by Bordwell and Thompson
- *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* by Tom Stoppard
- *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum
- *Different Seasons* by Stephen King
- *Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* by Ken Kesey
- *Kiss of the Spider Woman* by Manuel Puig
- Assorted Handouts

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

**30% Online Journal Postings (Formal):** These response papers should be written in clear, concise, well-organized, grammatical, standard English prose. The best journals will be thoughtful, specific and critical. These papers should not be mere summaries of what you have read and seen, but rather questions you have about situations or motivations and your attempts to answer these questions, or analyses or reactions what you have encountered in the literature. You should compose and save your papers in a word processing program (preferably MS Word) and attach them to the WebBoard. Though you are free to analyze any aspect of that week’s assigned text that you wish, some possible topics to consider:

a. Choose a passage from the written text and analyze how the film depicts that passage.

b. Explain why a written format or a film format is more conducive to a particular text.

c. Try using a the vocabulary from a specific chapter of Film Art to analyze the film text.

d. Indicate flaws in the adaptation and explain how, given the opportunity, you would have altered and improved the interpretation.

e. Discuss the narrative technique of a particular written work versus the narrative technique of the film and speculate on how the author and director’s choices of how to tell the story informs the theme.

**20% Online Journal Posting Responses (Informal):** Besides posting response papers to the WebBoard, the class should have an ongoing informal discussion. Your postings may be an extension of what took place in class, a direct response to the writings of others, recommendations and links, whatever. Occasionally I will place prompts on here and will moderate discussion. Your success in this aspect of the course will be determined by the quantity, quality, and regularity of your contributions.
30%  **Research Report and Class Participation**: Each of you will be responsible for researching and writing an overview and summary of the available literature of one of the texts we are studying this semester. You will present an oral report to the class on your findings and will facilitate that week’s class discussion. You will research the critical reception of the written and visual texts, as well as the history of the adaptation. Some of you will be able to find a book or a webpage on your topic. All of you should use the databases for magazines and newspapers available in the college library to locate material. Be sure to seek help from librarians if you need it. Summarize the results of your research in a 3-4 page essay. Use MLA format for your in-text documentation and your Works Cited page. Please submit photocopies of the research materials you find. Use the essay as the basis of an oral report to the class on your findings. I suggest preparing a specific clip to use as a basis for class discussion. You may also wish to provide some prompts or links on the WebBoard to prime the class for your presentation. You should meet with others who have the same text to coordinate your presentations.

20%  **Midterm Exam**: This will be a review of terms, vocabulary, and basic concepts that we have studied.

**FORMATTING**: You must type all drafts and response papers (but not in-class writing). I will provide you with a format to follow. I will not accept handwritten papers.

**LATE PAPERS**: You will not get credit for late web postings. All papers should be on time. Simply stated, to get an A in the course, you must do everything on time and do it well.

**MISSED CLASSES**: You are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. You are responsible for getting, doing, and handing in assignments on time regardless of your attendance. I do not accept any journal entries late, do not offer make-up quizzes, and will not inconvenience the rest of the class by reiterating what you missed while you were absent. Thus, it is your responsibility to find out what we did from either my website or from another student. I suggest you exchange phone numbers with someone early in the semester so that you can pair up and collect handouts, share notes, etc. My buddy is: (Name)__________________________(Phone)___________________

**SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS**: If you have a disability of which I should be aware, please discuss your situation privately with me outside of class.

**WRITING CENTER**: The Writing Center, located in LC 268 is staffed by students who are trained work with you on your drafts. They are there to offer you feedback at any stage of the writing process, but they will not edit your essays for you. In addition to tutoring services, they have a computer lab, a comfy couch, and a library of writing resources. The hours are posted on the door, and it is a good idea to make an appointment in advance because the WC gets quite busy. Call 703.450.2511 or go there to schedule an appointment.

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THIS COURSE**: October 29 is the last day to withdraw from a class without a grade penalty. On that date any student who has neither attended class, handed in an assignment, nor contacted the instructor in any way for any two consecutive weeks will be withdrawn from the grade roll. Any student who has missed 30% or more of the class meetings up to that point will also be withdrawn on that date. After that date, any student who wishes to withdraw from a class must contact the instructor.

**PLAGIARISM**: Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s writing and ideas in your exercise or paper without the use of quotation marks and a citation to identify the source. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offense because you are stealing someone else’s thoughts and writing to represent as your own. The following situations are some of the more common instances of plagiarism:

- copying all or part of another student's writing
- copying all or part of your paper from a book, magazine, encyclopedia, etc.
- handing in a paper written by a term paper service
- using the ideas of other people and or books without acknowledging the source
having another person "help" improve your paper by actually rewriting all or part of it for you.
In the first assignment where I find plagiarism, I will give you an F for failing to complete the assignment satisfactorily. You may not rewrite the assignment, and you will have to meet with me to discuss the problem. If you plagiarize a second time, you will receive an F for the course for failing to meet the course requirements, and I will notify the college administration.

WEATHER
The decision to close or delay classes at Northern Virginia Community College due to bad weather is made independently of the decisions about public schools. Information about inclement weather closings is available through NOVA-net at 703.323.3770 (703.330.3770 in Prince William County). Night classes may be cancelled separately from evening classes. For my classes you should prepare your reading and writing assignments according to the syllabus regardless of the classes missed.
ENGLISH 279  
FALL 2002 CLASS ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS: 
*subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>What's Due:</th>
<th>What We're Doing:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Class 1      |                      | • Class Introductions  
Tues    August 27  | • Review Syllabus  
September 3         | • Watch Rear Window  
Tuesday | • Read Rear Window  
September 10   | • Watch Rear Window  
Tuesday | • Read Film Art Chapters 2 and 3  
September 17   | • Watch R&G Are Dead  
Tuesday | • Introductory Posting Due  
September 24   | • R&G Are Dead presentations  
Tuesday | • Read Film Art Chapters 6 and 7  
October 1      | • Discuss Rear Window  
Tuesday | • Journal Due  
October 22     | • Discuss Wizard of Oz  
Tuesday | • Journal Due  
October 29     | • Midterm Quiz  
Tuesday | • Read Different Seasons  
November 5     | • discuss Seasons/Shawshank  
Tuesday | • Read Color Purple  
November 12    | • Watch Color Purple  
Tuesday | • Journal Due  
November 19    | • Color Purple presentations  
Tuesday | • Read Cuckoo’s Nest  
November 26    | • discuss Color Purple  
Tuesday | • Journal Due  
December 3     | • Watch Cuckoo’s Nest  
Tuesday | • Cuckoo’s Nest presentations  
December 10    | • discuss Cuckoo’s nest  
Tuesday | • Read Kiss  
November 1     | • Kiss presentations  
Tuesday | • Journal Due  
December 15    | • Discuss Kiss  
Tuesday | • Journal Due  
November 27    | • Midterm Quiz  
Tuesday | • Read Kiss  
December 3     | • Discuss Kiss  
Tuesday | • Journal Due  
December 10    | • Midterm Quiz  
Tuesday | • Read Kiss  
November 18    | • Discuss Kiss  
Tuesday | • Journal Due  
December 25    | • Midterm Quiz  
Tuesday | • Read Kiss  
December 31    | • Discuss Kiss  
Tuesday | • Journal Due  
December 10    | • Midterm Quiz  
Tuesday |

**OCTOBER 14-15: No Classes. Fall Break.**

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 29: LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT GRADE PENALTY**

**NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 1: No Classes. Thanksgiving Break.**