

**M.A. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION  
STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS AND READING LIST  
FALL 2021: FILM AND LITERATURE**

**STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS**

Preparation

As a field defined by analytical approach more than canonized works, preparing for the film and literature exam requires engaging critical and theoretical texts. ENGL 690: Film and Literature should be considered essential coursework before taking this examination. Other coursework in film would also be helpful. Using the reading list as a guide, examinees should display proficiency in the following areas:

- Foundational critical approaches to film adaptation and the various debates in the academy over these approaches.
- Understanding of at least one critical perspective on the cultural values that shape cinematic and literary representation, such as race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, nationality, or post-colonialism.
- Knowledge of a selection of important filmic adaptations from different periods of film history.

Writing the Exam

Your answers should specifically engage theoretical and literary texts (with short illustrative quotations) and should as well develop original analysis of film adaptations. Discussions of relevant texts should include readings of specific cinematic scenes and literary passages. Occasional questions may involve the critical analysis of singular films not adapted from literature.

Every answer should be clear, articulate, and grammatically sound, structured by a specific thesis statement and developed by supporting references to theoretic, cinematic and literary texts.

**READING LIST**

**1. Theory/Criticism (full book)**

Corrigan, Timothy, editor. *Film and Literature: An Introduction and Reader*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Routledge, 2011.

**2. Theory/Criticism (selective readings)**

Braudy, Leo, and Marshall Cohen, editors. *Film Theory and Criticism*. 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. Oxford UP. (Review 2-4 readings related to a critical approach that interests you from the following areas: race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, nationality, or post-colonialism).

**3. Films (at least five examples)**

You should be familiar with at least five films. For film adaptations, make sure you also have sufficient familiarity with the source text to provide illustrative quotations. Your selection should follow these criteria:

- One pre-1960 film adapted from an American novel.
- One post-1960 film adapted from an American novel.
- One film adapted from British literature from any period.
- One film adapted from a play from any period.
- One film with an original screenplay from any period.