Text/Prose versus Cinema/Drama   **Read *Portable Legacies*, pages: 932-941**
In this comparison/contrast assignment, you have three main goals:
1. examine the psychological makeup of central characters
2. examine the developing plot structures between a product of prose and a product of cinema
3. examine the end product of the two art forms—decide which is more effective and explain why
   • use parallel structure when citing evidence based on your observations of the text and movie
   • discuss what elements of plot changes between the two art forms and what elements remain constant
   • remember the focus is not on the actors' performance but on the events that make up the plot

1,250 words or more / follow MLA guidelines (Other requirements will be discussed soon.)

Choose from the following list of possibilities:

1. Grimm Brothers folk tale "Cinderella" (1857 version) || Walt Disney animated film *Cinderella,*
   • Propose a strong thesis statement discussing your observations
   • Provide a brief synopsis of story and film. No more than five sentences (1 paragraph) each.

   Examine and Compare the following:
   • Use of magic (detail how it is performed and by whom; what results?)
   • Protagonist's presentation and characterization; who/what aids the protagonist?
   • How is the father figure presented in both versions?
   • How are the issues with the antagonists resolved; how is punishment/retribution delivered?
   • What is the overall portrayal of the antagonists? —cite physical descriptions.
   • Explain the conflict type in detail: cite examples from text and film; how do they differ?

   Confirm:
   • Does the story uphold the European definition discussed in class? Why or why not?
   • Does the film uphold the European definition discussed in class? Why or why not?
   • What plot strategies does the film add? –what plot strategies does the film take away?
   • Propose why the changes exist; are they effective? –do they distract?
   • What is the ultimate message for each art form? Is the message the same for each version?

   Bonus:
   In addition: Research the French author Charles Perrault's version of the story.
   How does this additional version factor into your hypothesis?
   For Perrault's text, visit: **http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0510a.html#perrault**/.

2. Jonathan Nolan short story "Memento Mori" || Christopher Nolan film *Memento*
   • Propose a strong thesis statement discussing your observations
   • Provide a brief synopsis of story and film. No more than five sentences (1 paragraph) each.

   • Determine how each is presented to the audience. (Explain the basic concept of story presentation.)
   • What forms of the narrative voice are explored in the short story? —how does the film treat this?
   • How are flashback scenes shown in comparison to the protagonist's "real" time?
   • Examine in detail the presented weaknesses/illness of the protagonist for each art form
   • Does the actor's presentation match your expectations of the prose version?
   • Define the protagonist and his characteristics in each version; how does he meet qualities for an Antihero?
   • Define the antagonist in each version; how is a resolution delivered?
   • Explain the conflict type in detail: explain choice with examples from text and film
   • What elements/techniques does the film add? –what elements/techniques does the film take away?
   • Propose why the changes exist; are they effective? –do they distract?

   • You can examine reviews of the film; do be cautious however. Critics like to present themselves as
         authorities or celebrities— and in some cases, their opinions are heavily biased.
   • Propose why changes exist between the story and the film; which version is more effective?
   • What is the ultimate message for each art form? Is the same message achieved?

3. Grimm Brothers folk tale "Godfather Death" || Ingmar Bergman film *The Seventh Seal*
    • Propose a strong thesis statement discussing your observations
    • Provide a brief synopsis of story and film. No more than five sentences (one paragraph) each.

    • Examine how the personification of Death is presented: do the characters react to events in common?
        –any differences? How is Death's presence explained?
    • Consider Death's role in the stories. Does he serve a different purpose for the text as opposed to the film?
    • Are the personifications similar in physical presentation?
    • Declare in each story who is the protagonist and who is the antagonist—
        defend your choice with evidence and short summary of details; due to the complex nature of the
        tale, any interpretation must be justified as soon as possible; how is a resolution delivered?
    • Can it be argued that both stories are allegories? See definition in class lecture: 09/06 Friday, page 10
    • Examine how each version can meet the definition; explain how each goes in an independent direction
    • Explain the conflict type in detail: defend choice with in-depth examples from text and film
    • Contrast the two journeys presented <explain how they operate as plot devices
    • Examine the closing message; how similar is the tone and outcome of the plot?
    • What is the ultimate message delivered for each art form? Is the message the same for each version?

Films are currently on reserve in Library.
These can be checked out for a two hour time limit and can be watched on a Library computer.
Students are responsible for finding the means of watching the full official film they have chosen to discuss.
Be cautious. There are "Frankenstein monsters" on Youtube.

Critical essays discussing Grimm Brothers' stories are available at the course site in Angel. See "Lessons" tab.

Stories are available at the following sites:

"Cinderella" (Grimm)   http://www.grimmstories.com/en/grimm_fairy-tales/pdf/aschenputtel.pdf
"Cinderella" (Perrault)   http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0510a.html#perrault

"Memento Mori" (Nolan)   http://www.esquire.com/fiction/fiction/memento-mori-0301

"Godfather Death" (Grimm)   http://www.davidglensmith.com/lonestar/1302/PDFs/GodfatherDeath.pdf

Due Dates:
10/28   Monday   Subject declared
11/11   Monday   Introductory page with thesis
11/15   Friday   Tentative Works Cited page
11/25   Monday   Final Project due in Turnitin.com