

ENGL 2100A: Literature and Popular Culture

Topic: Jane Austen, Adapted

Fall 2026 Preliminary Outline

**\*\*\* This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change. A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term. \*\*\***

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### Course Description:

Ever since Amy Heckerling's film *Clueless* was released in 1995, critics and fans have talked excitedly of a Jane Austen "revival." Thirty years later, the revival shows no sign of abating and in fact demands that we rethink the very idea that Austen needed to be revived in the first place. In this course we will read four of her novels (*Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma*, and *Persuasion*) to ground our explorations of Austenmania in current popular culture. From *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, to Dakota Johnson as Anne Elliot, and Anja Taylor-Joy as Emma Woodhouse, we will delve into the world of all things Austen and adaptation.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- read and understand the literary and cultural significance of novels by an early 19<sup>th</sup> C British author whose work continues to be in wide circulation today
- learn about theories of literary adaptation, and what it means to “adapt” a novel into another form of media (film, television, YA novel, etc)
- analyze and interpret Austen’s novels in order to adapt them into a different medium
- produce your own creative adaptation of a scene/section of a Jane Austen novel
- develop a vocabulary of key critical terms related to adaptation that are commonly used in literary study.

### **Required Texts:**

- Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (Broadview Press, approx. 16\$)  
*Sense and Sensibility* (Broadview Press, approx. 16\$)  
*Persuasion* (Broadview Press, approx. 16\$)  
*Emma* (Broadview Press, approx. 16\$)

Books will be available for purchase at the Carleton Bookstore. Other course material (film adaptations, etc) will be available through ARES.

### **Course Requirements:**

**NOTE:** The course assignments are mandatory. You must complete all of them in order to receive a final grade in the course. You must also write the in-person final exam in order to pass the course.

#### **Mid-term test**

**20%** (written in-person, during class) The midterm will include short answer questions and key terms and definitions.

#### **Proposal for Austen Adaptation**

**10%** A 2-page proposal for your Austen adaptation. Details will be in the full syllabus.

#### **Austen Adaptation assignment**

**30%** Calling all writers, directors, podcasters, authors, and video artists! This is a creative assignment in which you adapt a specific textual aspect (scene, passage, chunk of the novel) of an Austen novel using the medium of your choice. You will present your adaptation to the class in the final week of course.

#### **Final exam**

**30%** (to be written in December examination period). The final exam will consist of key terms and definitions, short answer questions, and passage identification

and analysis. The exam will cover the entire course but will be weighted towards material covered since the mid-term.

### **Engagement Grade**

**10%** Engagement includes attendance (which will be taken each class), willingness to participate in class discussion, attendance at classes in which other students are presenting their Austen Adaptation, and participation in class writing and related activities.