

Dear Students,

This reading and screening schedule is meant to be suggestive only. In the event we find that we need to spend more time on a text/film than originally allocated—or allow more time for talks and facilitations—we can adjust our syllabus accordingly. You should also know that one of the signs of a good class discussion is that we will not have time to address all the reading that has been assigned for a certain day. Formally, the class will proceed through discussion, group workshops, and occasional lecturing.

Please explore [MAL PAL](#) & [CAL PAL](#) & [FILM PAL](#) regularly for useful links to modern & contemporary American literature sites, as you prepare for class and research your interests. Many of these sites contain numerous other links. You might also find the (rather skeletal) [Theory PAL](#) useful on occasion. — As you find additional sites we should all know about, please let us know!

January

- T 9
- What Shall we Introduce? ☺
 - Talk of the Nation: [Film Adaptations of Books](#)
 - A [brief \(spotty\) history of literary adaptation](#)
 - Take a Look — [FilmPal](#)
- TH 11 **On (Not) Coming Out Of the Closet**
- Patricia Highsmith, *The Price of Salt* (1952)
 - FYI
 - Books on Film, tiff, [Linda Hutcheon on adaptations and remakes](#)
- T 16
- Patricia Highsmith, *The Price of Salt* (1952)
- TH 18
- Patricia Highsmith, *The Price of Salt*

Salt _____

- T 23
- Todd Haynes, director, *Carol* (2015)
 - What Goes into the [Screening Report](#)?

Carol _____

- TH 25
- Todd Haynes, director, *Carol* (2015)
 - [Writing About Film](#)
 - FYI
 - Mary Ann Doane, “Pathos and Pathology: The Cinema of Todd Haynes” (to be linked)
 - Barry Jenkins, [Moonlight](#) (2016)
 - Mike Nichols, [The Birdcage](#) (1996)

T 30 **Same Topic/Different Medium — The Water Crisis Then and in the Future**

- Paolo Bacigalupi, *The Water Knife* (2015)

- TH 1
- Paolo Bacigalupi, *The Water Knife* (2015)

Water Knife _____

February

- T 6
- Paolo Bacigalupi, *The Water Knife* (2015)

- TH 8
- Roman Polanski, *Chinatown* (1974)

Chinatown _____

T 13

- Roman Polanski, *Chinatown* (1974)

Chinatown _____

- FYI
 - Steven Neale, “Chinatown,” *Film Analysis, A Norton Reader* (to be linked)
 - Jennifer Baichwal & Edward Burtynsky, [Watermark](#) (2013)
 - Deepa Mehta, [Water](#) (2005)

***** Notebook #1 due in Canvas *****

TH 15 **A War and Man of (More Than) Two Faces – or, Re-viewing Vietnam**

- [The Vietnam War Explained](#)
- Viet Thanh Nguyen, *The Sympathizer* (2015, chap. 1-6)

T 20

- VTN, *The Sympathizer*, chap. 7-15
- FYI
 - [The Vietnam War on CALPAL](#)
 - [VTN Homepage](#) – Look around!
 - [The Sympathizer](#) (*The Guardian*)
 - [VTN on The Sympathizer](#) (NPR)

Sympathizer _____

TH 22

- VTN, *The Sympathizer*, chap. 16-20
- VTN, “On War Machines,” *Nothing Ever Dies* (2017, chap. 4, optional)

Sympathizer 2 _____

Alternative: Honors Program Food for Thought.
Student panel, “The cinematic-industrial complex.”

T 27

- VTN, *The Sympathizer*, chap. 22-23
- FYI
 - [“My Book Has Something to Offend Anyone”](#) (*The Guardian*)

- [Washington Post: Four Acclaimed Novelists Talk About Writing Vietnam](#)

TH 29 The Power of the Visual-Industrial Complex

- Francis Ford Coppola, *Apocalypse Now* (1979)
Recommend *Apocalypse Now Redux* (2001) or *Apocalypse: Final Cut* (2019)

Apocalypse Now _____

March

T 5 ***** Spring Break ☺ *****

TH 7 ***** Spring Break ☺ *****

- T 12
- Francis Ford Coppola, *Apocalypse Now* (ctd.)
 - FYI
 - [Apocalypse Now: Final Cut](#) (*The Guardian*)
 - Twenty Years After: [A Journey Back into a Nihilistic Landscape](#)
 - [Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse](#) (1991)
 - Dang Nhat Minh, [When the Tenth Month Comes](#) (1984)
 - Ham Tran, [Journey From the Fall](#) (2006)
 - [7 Vietnam War Films You Probably Haven't Seen, but Should](#)
- ***** Notebook #2 due in Canvas *****

TH 14 The Immigrant Narrative, Namaste *Namesake*!

- Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Namesake* (chap. 1-4)
- [NEA Resource Page on The Namesake](#)

- T 19
- Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Namesake* (chap. 4-7)

The Namesake _____

- TH 21 • Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Namesake* (chap. 7-10)

The Namesake _____

- T 26 • Mira Nair, *The Namesake* (2006)

The Namesake, film _____

- FYI
 - [A Conversation Between Mira Nair and Jhumpa Lahiri](#)
 - Priyanka Bose, “[The Liminal Stages of Immigrant Life](#),” *The Spool*

- TH 28 • Mira Nair, *The Namesake* (2006)

The Namesake, film _____

No April Fool’s joke: Given that the Barry Jenkins’ miniseries adaptation of *The Underground Railroad* (Amazon) is extensive, please make sure to set aside time for watching it and taking notes. Possibly, we need to make schedule adjustments. Thank you.

Option #1: Michael Ondaatje, *The English Patient* (1992); Anthony Minghella, director (1996)

Option #2: [31 Movies Based on Short Stories](#), or How to Turn a Nine-Page Story into a Feature Film

April

- T 2 • Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad* (2016)

- Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad* (2016)

Underground _____

TH 4

- Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad* (2016)

Underground 2 _____

T 9

Barry Jenkins, *The Underground Railroad* (2021)

Underground _____

- FYI
 - [I-Barry Jenkins on UGRR \(VF, 4/21\)](#)
 - [I-Barry Jenkins \(NPR, 5/21\)](#)

TH 11 Barry Jenkins, *The Underground Railroad* (2021)

T 16 **Final Paper Workshop** — Details TBA

TH 18 **Conclusion & Review** — in which much is reviewed and nothing is concluded

***** **Final Paper or FDP due in Canvas** *****

Thank you for being in this class. Enjoy the summer!

Concluding Note – The only dumb question is the one you don't ask. My door is always open, and if it is not open, please knock—virtually or otherwise; I will answer if I am there. Please don't hesitate to stop by.