FSEM100xxx
Jane Austen: Text/Film/Web
Spring 2015, Dr. McAllister

ABOUT THE COURSE

No classic writer occupies quite the same place in popular culture as Jane Austen. From YouTube channels to online role-playing games, Bollywood films to detective novels, Austen is a ubiquitous figure. But why Austen?

In the first portion of this course, we will read and discuss two novels in depth. Then we will consider four spheres of popular culture involving Austen: a) films and videos; b) online and real-world games; c) for-profit sites (real and virtual) dedicated to Austen and aimed at tourists or consumers; d) the online fan presence, including fan fiction, Facebook groups, individual blogs, and social media groups. Finally, we will read scholarly work that attempts to answer the "Why Austen?" question. Each student will take responsibility, sometimes as part of a group and sometimes alone, for a portion of our work: by choosing subjects for study, evaluating and presenting web sites, leading discussion, and presenting research findings.

CONTACT INFORMATION
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REQUIRED PHYSICAL TEXTS
Pride and Prejudice (Norton Critical)
Emma (Norton Critical)
ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING/VIEWING
• two period film adaptations of *Pride and Prejudice*, selected from the list on our website
• two period film adaptations of *Emma*, selected from the list on our website
• *Clueless* (modernized film adaptation of *Emma*)
• at least ten episodes of *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries* on YouTube
• scholarly articles & book chapters selected from the list on our website; these include scholarship on the novels, the films, and on Austen's role in contemporary popular culture
• selected online games, including those for your group's research project
• selected web sites, including those for your group's research project

SEMINAR LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students in this seminar will
• Utilize a variety of research techniques to retrieve information efficiently; evaluate retrieved information; and synthesize information effectively to support their messages or arguments
• Improve their skills in the development and organization of written arguments;
• Improve their skills in invention, revision, and editing in the writing process;
• Learn and apply the basic theories and principles of oral communication; and
• Communicate effectively in a variety of settings, including public speaking and group discussion.

REQUIREMENTS, SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS, AND GRADING
This course requires:
> Careful reading of all assigned texts (physical or electronic) before class
> Active participation. This includes being here, being prepared for class, listening carefully to classmates, volunteering regularly in (but not dominating) discussions, and taking an active and cooperative part in small group discussions
> Solo papers/projects/presentations:

    a) a one-page close reading paper due in week 2 (5%)

    b) a two-minute oral presentation in which you compare a single scene from *PP* or *E* to one filmic treatment of that scene, due in week 6 (5%)

    c) two annotated bibliography entries on scholarly sources, posted to our class site in week 8 (5%)

    d) a 2-page final paper giving your answer to "Why Austen?" due on the day of the final exam (10%)

    e) periodic reading quizzes or in-class writing assignments, distributed throughout the semester (10%)

    f) a customized Domain of One's Own site, including all projects done in this course (5%)

g) active, effective participation in discussion (10%)

> Group papers/projects/presentations:

    h) a collaborative one-minute video review of one of the films you and your film-mates have chosen to study, due in week 7 (5%)

    i) a written group review of a web site from the masterlist, due in week 9 (5%)

    j) three Vlog entries of less than one minute, in each of which your research group reviews a website or game from your group's research list, due in weeks 7-9 (10%)

    k) a ten-minute final oral report on your group's research findings, to include appropriate visuals (15%), and an accompanying handout (5%)

HONOR CODE AND STUDY GROUPS
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DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION
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ETIQUETTE
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Actual syllabus will include day by day breakdown, but here's the general plan:
Weeks 1-4: Austen novels
    outside class: read both novels, complete speaking module
    in class: discussion and analysis of selected aspects of the text; crash course in writing college-level papers
    assignments: close reading paper in week 2; set up rough Domain in week 4
Weeks 5-7: Austen films
    outside class: watch films, complete library module
    in class: analysis and discussion of selected scenes; crash course in making college-level oral presentations
    assignments: solo oral presentation in week 6, collaborative video review in week 7

Week 8: introduction to Austen on the web
   outside class: watch *Lizzie Bennet Diaries*, complete writing module (if
      available/worthwhile)
   in class: discussion of *LBD*; crash-course in college-level research
   assignments: annotated bibliography entries
Weeks 9-12: Austen on the web - group research
   outside class: read scholarly articles, complete all stages of group research project
   in class: discuss scholarly articles; crash course on source evaluation and web site
      evaluation; learn skills for each stage of research project; report to fellow students on
      each stage
   assignments: co-written web site review; compile source list; record Vlog reviews; group
      presentation
Weeks 13-14: "Why Austen?"
   outside class: reread novels
   in class: discuss novels and Austen's role in contemporary popular culture
   assignments: write final "Why Austen?" paper