"Lost in translation"? Do great books ever make good films?

The course aims at presenting the students with various examples of intersemiotic translation, or the film transposition of a selection of narrative texts. These will be analysed through a comparative analysis of source- (literary texts) and target-texts (films), in order to reflect on the main changes that occur in the adaptation from one medium into the other, as well as on the strategies that the director and scriptwriter adopted to produce an original work which does not upset the semantic and linguistic features of the source-text.

**COMPULSORY PRIMARY READING**

2 full texts (=2 literary texts and 2 films) + *East is East* + extracts examined in class for the other 2 texts – all texts available in the Department Library; videos also available in the Laboratory.

Extracts are available on the website lea.unipr.it

1. *The Dead* (Joyce / Huston)
2. *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (Spark / Neame)
3. *The Hours* (Cunningham / Daldry)
4. *The Namesake* (Lahiri / Nair)
5. The film *East is East* (O'Donnell).

**COMPULSORY SECONDARY READING**

1) *General studies* (From the OPAC Catalogue) *(Choose 3 – only relevant parts in each)*

- Battisti Chiara, *La traduzione filmica: il romanzo e la sua trasposizione cinematografica*, Verona, Ombre Corte, 2008 (photocopy in the photocopy office)
2) **Single chapters and essays on film transposition**

- Mather Nigel, “Racial discourses, ethnicity, and the ‘comic mode’ in contemporary British cinema”, in *Tears of Laughter: Comedy-Drama in 1990s British Drama*, Manchester University Press, 2006 (photocopy office)
- Woolf Virginia, “The Cinema”, in *Arts*, June 1926 (lea.unipr.it)
- *East is East* – handout by Micol Beseghi (lea.unipr.it)

3) **Specific essays on the 2 selected full texts (Read at least 2 for each text)**

**On The Dead**

- Lothe J., “James Joyce’s ‘The Dead’ and John Huston’s *The Dead*”, in *Narrative in Fiction and Film. An Introduction*, New York, Oxford University Press, 2000 (Biblioteca del Dipartimento di Lingue, coll. 808.3 LOT)
- Pilipp Frank, “Narrative Devices and Aesthetic Perception in Joyce’s and Huston’s ‘The Dead’”, *Literature Film Quarterly*, Vol. 21, Issue 1, 1993. (lea.unipr.it)

**On The Hours**

On The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie


On The Namesake

- Friedman Natalie, “From Hybrids to Tourists: Children of Immigrants in Jhumpa Lahiri’s The Namesake”, Critique, vol. 50, n. 1, Fall 2008, pp. 111-126. (lea.unipr.it)

Recommended for reference only (in our Department Library)

- Delisle, Lee-Jahnke, Cormier (a cura di), Terminologia della traduzione, Milano, Hoepli, 2002.
- Eco U., Dire quasi la stessa cosa, Milano, Bompiani, 2003
- Genette Gérard, Figure III, Torino, Einaudi, 1972 (in particular: pp. 73-134, 208-310).

EXAM (ORAL ONLY)

About 5-minute presentation on the intersemiotic translation of 1 of the full texts (or both) selected, followed by 2-3 further questions on the rest of the syllabus: at least 1 on transposition theories and the other ones on the extracts examined in class or on East is East.