

JANE AUSTEN, NOVELS AND FILMS

Dianne Sadoff

Course Information

Tuesdays from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. for eight weeks beginning September 30 through November 18.

In-Person - Discussion - Max 18

Course Description

We'll read (or reread) Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, *Persuasion*, and *Emma*. We'll trace Austen's take on "the disinherited daughter," a story she inherited from eighteenth-century predecessors and updated. We'll ask how the late novels, *Persuasion* and *Emma*, critique and revise early anxieties about the entailed paternal estate, the financial precarity of daughters, and the necessity of marriage. Thus, our work will be literary and historical, as we consider how the history of marriage—and Austen's own feelings about wedding—shaped these narratives.

When we add cinema to our work, we'll ask how the period films "faithful" to the novels (Ang Lee's *Sense and Sensibility*, 1995, and Roger Michell's *Persuasion*, 1995) and that wildly unfaithful and updated to the contemporary moment (Amy Heckerling's *Clueless*, 1995) engage twentieth-century audiences. How does the reader's perspective on Austen's stories change, when he or she becomes a spectator? Does it matter whether you've read the novel when you see the film? Why do we love—or hate—film adaptations? We'll ask how screenwriters change a novel's story, how directors cast their films and photograph their stars, and whether updating disgusts or entrances us. During our classes, we'll also watch selected film clips and talk about them.

PURCHASING AND READING/SCREENING LIST

Please buy the editions I list here, so we will all be "on the same page" in discussions. I've asked Labyrinth to order these books; they will probably be shelved immediately behind the checkout counter.

Please purchase DVDs or stream films; according to IMDB, Amazon sells or streams all; Princeton Public Library owns all.

- Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*, 3rd ed. (Oxford World's Classics), \$6.95.

- Jane Austen, *Emma*, ed. James Kingsley (Oxford World's Classics), \$7.95.
- Jane Austen, *Persuasion*, ed. James Kingsley (Oxford World's Classics), \$5.95.

READING/SCREENING SCHEDULE

September 30	Introduction: Names, Faces, Interests Read: <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> , vol. 1
October 7	Read: <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> , vol. 2
October 14	Read: <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> , vol. 3 Screen: <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> , Ang Lee (Columbia Pictures, 1999)
October 21	Read: <i>Emma</i> , vol. 1
October 28	Read: <i>Emma</i> , vol. 2
November 4	Read: <i>Emma</i> , vol. 3 Screen: <i>Clueless</i> , Amy Heckerling (Paramount Pictures, 1995)
November 11	Read: <i>Persuasion</i> , vol. 1
November 18	Read: <i>Persuasion</i> , vol. 2 Screen: <i>Persuasion</i> , Roger Michell (BBC Films, 1999)