

# Fiction on Film

## Infos pratiques

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- > ECTS : 4.5
- > Nombre d'heures : 24.0
- > Langue(s) d'enseignement : Anglais
- > Période de l'année : Semestre Impair
- > Méthodes d'enseignement : En présence
- > Forme d'enseignement : Cours magistral
- > Ouvert aux étudiants en échange : Oui
- > Composante : Langues et cultures étrangères
- > Code ELP : 4VgAFICP

## Présentation

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« Fiction on Film. Novel and Drama on Screen » / « Film et littérature : roman et théâtre au cinéma »

### Abstract:

The seminar will be devoted to a study of Cormac McCarthy's novel *The Road* and its adaptation for the screen.

McCarthy's postapocalyptic novel *The Road* chronicles the journey of two survivors, a man and his son. Equipped with a map in tatters whose fragments they have numbered, they are making their way to the ocean. The narrative of their meaningless survival from day to day revisits some of the tropes of the journey West turned into a flight to the East, in which the different places can be read allegorically. The abandoned house triggers a reflection on the meaning of the home; the supermarket stands as a vestige of a consumer society without consumers, where the most ordinary items have become unknown to the child and where our world only exists as scattered fragments of the past.

In his 2009 eponymous movie, Australian director John Hillcoat adapts for the screen Cormac McCarthy's legendary postapocalyptic novel *The Road* with English-Australian playwright and

screenwriter, Joe Penhall, best known for having adapted Ian McEwan's novel *Enduring Love* to film in 2004 and created the Netflix original series *Mindhunter* (2017-19) on the birth of the FBI profilers unit. Among other stars, Viggo Mortensen and Kodi Smit-McPhee play a father and his son desperately trying to survive in a post-apocalyptic wasteland. The film received positive reviews and garnered some prizes, among which a BAFTA nomination for Best Cinematography.

In this dismal tale of near-extinction, the road functions as a metaphor for the disappearance of community and the emergence of a bleak form of nomadism. But uncharacteristically, it doesn't offer "the Man" (Mortensen) and "the Boy" (Smit-McPhee) any form of hope nor lead to any display of conventional masculine heroism. The pair's progress among the ruins of civilization is some anti-Frontier-like itinerary inscribing on screen the result of Man's ultimate estrangement from Nature.

We'll also focus on film terminology, interpretation of camera movements, use of lighting, and generic hybridity with incursions into drama and horror – among other categories.

## Objectifs

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- Se familiariser avec les œuvres, courants et enjeux majeurs de l'adaptation de pièce et roman à l'écran ainsi que des modes de représentation de la violence et de l'horreur dans le cinéma américano-britannique contemporain : savoir décrypter les modes de transfert d'un médium à un autre.

- Renforcer les outils de l'analyse du texte de théâtre, de roman et de film, tant dans une visée généraliste (être capable de décrypter un texte ainsi que l'image animée, d'en comprendre les codes sémiologiques et iconographiques et les usages, pouvoir en proposer une discussion en anglais), que dans l'optique de la préparation aux concours de l'enseignement.

## Évaluation

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### *Contrôle continu*

1 exposé oral (*ou autre devoir*) = 40% et 1 partiel en fin de semestre = 60%. Total = 100%

### *Contrôle dérogatoire*

Écrit de 3h = 100%

## Pré-requis nécessaires

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Anglais C1 & plus et une bonne maîtrise du français.

## Bibliographie

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Selected Bibliography & Filmography: [To be completed in class]

A/ [Completed in class]

B/ John Hillcoat, *The Road* (2929 Productions, 2009)

Berger, James. "Twentieth Century Apocalypse: Forecasts and Aftermaths". *Twentieth Century Literature*, Winter 2000, Vol. 46, N° 4, "Literature and Apocalypse": 387-395.

Blake, Richard A. "Dead End: John Hillcoat's 'The Road'". *America* (Vol. 202, Issue 1), Jan. 4, 2010. [gale.com/apps/doc/A216352447/BIC?u=txshracd2598&sid=summon&xid=97185094](http://gale.com/apps/doc/A216352447/BIC?u=txshracd2598&sid=summon&xid=97185094)

Fisher, Mark. "Post-Apocalypse Now", in *Post-Traumatic Urbanism*, Special Issue, Volume 80, Issue 5, September/October 2010: 70-73.

Peebles, Stacey. *Cormac McCarthy and Performance*. Page, Stage, Screen. Austin, U. of Texas Press, 2017.

Stratton, Billy J. "Everything depends on reaching the coast": Inscriptions of Placelessness in John Hillcoat's Adaptation of *The Road*". *Arizona Quarterly: A Journal of American Literature, Culture, and Theory*, Volume 70, Number 4, Winter 2014, pp. 85-107.

## Contact(s)

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