Fall 2015
Thursdays, September 10 – November 19
1:30 – 3:30 PM

Jane Austen: An 18th Century Woman for the 21st Century

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Pride and Prejudice has been in print continuously for 202 years. Film adaptations of all six completed novels of Jane Austen abound. Jane Austen’s Guide to Dating (published in Spring 2015) is only the most recent book that uses Austen’s writings as inspiration for modern advice on “hooking up.” Who is this woman—who died young at 42, who seldom ventured from her home county, but who continues to influence popular culture?

In this course we will examine the historical and social contexts within which Austen wrote, survey five of the six completed novels, and view scenes from film adaptations of each of the five. Along the way we will also discuss adaptation more generally, as films based on Austen fall across the spectrum of possibilities, from the scrupulously faithful to the fanciful (think Pride and Prejudice and Zombies) and from culturally 100% English to global (think Bollywood and Bride and Prejudice).
The novels are as follows: *Sense & Sensibility, Pride & Prejudice, Mansfield Park, Emma,* and *Persuasion.* Of the many, many film adaptations, we will view scenes from the following:

- *Sense & Sensibility* – 1995, with Emma Thompson and Hugh Grant
- *Pride & Prejudice* – 1995, with Jennifer Ehle and Colin Firth (yes, it’s nearly six hours long—and it’s amazing!)
- *Mansfield Park* – 1999, with Frances O’Connor and Jonny Lee Miller
- *Emma* – 1996, with Gwyneth Paltrow and Jeremy Northam
- *Persuasion* – 1995, with Amanda Root and Ciaran Hinds


**September 10**
Introduction to the 18th century and to Jane Austen’s life, including:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKK1AdJt4Mc

http://www.pemberleydigital.com/the-lizzie-bennet-diaries/

**September 17**

**Sense & Sensibility**
Focus is on the novel – read any edition.

**September 24**

**Sense & Sensibility**
Focus is on a film adaptation: 1995, with Emma Thompson

**October 1**

**Pride & Prejudice**
Focus is on the novel – read any edition.

**October 8**

**Pride & Prejudice**
Focus is on a film adaptation: 1995, with Jennifer Ehle
**October 15**

*Mansfield Park*
Focus is on the novel – read any edition.

**October 22**

*Mansfield Park*
Focus is on a film adaptation: 1999, with Frances O’Connor

**October 29**

*Emma*
Focus is on the novel – read any edition.

**November 5**

*Emma*
Focus is on a film adaptation: 1996, with Gwyneth Paltrow

**November 12**

*Persuasion*
Focus is on the novel – read any edition.

**November 19**

*Persuasion*
Focus is on a film adaptation: 1995, with Amanda Root