

English 4316
Dr. Gunn
Spring 2021

****Extra Credit Opportunity: American Literature and its Adaptations****

This spring, I am making available a purely optional extra credit opportunity, in which you can earn a maximum of **five** points. The points breakdown is as follows: **five points** will be awarded for papers earning a grade of A-minus or better; **four points** will be awarded for papers earning a B-minus to B-plus; and **two points** will be awarded for papers that fall in the range of C-minus to C-plus. **No points** will be awarded for papers that fail to meet the standard of a C-minus

Your job is to write a **short paper (1000-1500 words)** in which you perform **an analytical comparison** between a work of American non-fiction or poetry produced before 1865, and a contemporary film, television, or artistic adaptation of that work. In this paper you must: introduce the works under review; perform an analytical comparison of the two works on the basis of **at least three specific pieces of concrete evidence** in the adapted work (e.g., dialogue, visual evidence, plot devices) that compare directly to the original; and, offer at least one thoughtful paragraph of your own reflections about the meanings and “cultural work” that the contemporary adaptation performs.

This assignment, should you wish to pursue it, will be due on Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 11, 2021**.

N.b. Only one extra credit opportunity is allowed per student; if you choose to complete and submit this extra credit assignment, you cannot complete and submit another extra credit assignment.