ENGLISH 371: Literary Genres into Film/SUMMER 2020
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This is a course in the close reading of literary texts and the attentive viewing of their film adaptations with an eye to encountering and understanding the metamorphosis of selected literary genres into films. These genres will include short fiction, a graphic novel, and nonfiction. We will read texts by writers from diverse backgrounds including Annie Proulx, Haruki Murakami, Marjane Satrapi, Daphne du Maurier, and James Baldwin, and their film adaptations by directors including Ang Lee, Lee Chang Dong, Alfred Hitchcock and Raoul Peck. We will closely read the original literary texts within their cultural and historical contexts. We will then apply what we’ve learned about these texts as we view the films. We will take multiple aspects of the film’s production into consideration, including the narrative elements via the screenplay, as well as the design elements (sound, score, costumes, location); directorial vision, and the actors’ portrayals. We will pay attention to how the work is translated into images and into a visual narrative that speaks to the group mind. We will also read poems, reviews, essays, interviews and other supplementary material. The structure of the class will be as a lecture with equal parts seminar and group discussion.