The Brontës' Novels and Films

In this seminar-style class, we'll read Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (1847) and Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* (1847), and we'll watch Cary Fukunaga's and Andrea Arnold's film adaptations (2011). We'll ask how Brontës—and their heroines—grow up on the Yorkshire moors: Charlotte and Emily in a small village like Haworth, with a reclusive father and scribbling siblings. We'll wonder what the Brontë tales tell us about women's work, desires, marital prospects, and domestic lives in 1840s England; how the moors represent the nation in a new century and during the "hungry 40s," a decade of workers' rebellions and widespread social unrest. We'll theorize how Charlotte Brontë's first-person narrator and Emily's multiple narrators shape their stories, and why.

The films of *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* update the Brontës for twentieth-century audiences. How does the reader's perspective on the Brontës' 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 how the camera frames the Yorkshire scene. Fukunaga changes *Jane*'s plot, entirely reshaping the spectator's experience; Arnold shoots the moors to create a multisensory experience, making the setting the star. During our classes, we'll also watch selected film clips, read some essays, and look at clips from earlier films, should we wish.

Please buy or borrow these editions and DVDs (below, or stream on Amazon or Netflix):
Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*, ed. Beth Newman (Bedford Books), $18.99.
Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*, ed. Linda Peterson (Bedford Books), $18.99.

Reading Schedule:

Wed., Oct. 3: Introduction: Names, Faces, Interests
Read: *Jane Eyre*, chs. 1-10

Wed., Oct. 10: *Read*: *Jane Eyre,* chs. 11-19

Wed., Oct. 17: *Read*: *Jane Eyre*, chs. 20-29

Wed., Oct. 24: *Read*: *Jane Eyre*, chs. 30-38
Screen: Cary Fukunaga, *Jane Eyre* (Focus Features, 2011)

Wed., Oct. 31: *Read: Wuthering Heights*, chs. 1-9

Wed., Nov. 7: *Read: Wuthering Heights*, chs. 10-16

Wed., Nov. 14: *Read: Wuthering Heights*, chs. 17-24

Wed., Nov. 21: *Read: Wuthering Heights*, chs. 25-34
Screen: Andrea Arnold, *Wuthering Heights* (Film4, UK Film Council, 2011)

Leader: Dianne Sadoff