

**Name:** Scott O'Neil

**Course Description:** WRT 105-- Re-Making the Original

Filmmaker Jim Jarmusch has been celebrated for his opinion that “Authenticity is invaluable; originality is non-existent.” Ironically, this opinion does not originate with Jarmusch. Dean Inge, a 19<sup>th</sup> century theologian, wrote that originality was “only undetected and frequently unconscious plagiarism.” In this class, we will explore these boundaries between originality, adaptation and authenticity by looking at a variety of adapted “texts” including plays, novels, video games, cover songs and films. Of particular interest are texts that cross through several of these categories, such as *M\*A\*S\*H*, *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, and some of Isaac Asimov’s work. Are any of these texts “original”? Are the adaptations more or less “authentic” than the “originals”? We will explore these questions in all aspects of our writing, including pre-writing, peer review, self-assessment and the revision process in order to create well-organized essays, culminating with an 8-10 page research paper.