
502.01 DISCIPLINE AND PROFESS

Prof. A. Parker

Wednesday 9:50am -12:50pm, AB-4052 (CAC)

510.01 LITERARY GENRE: Self Writing

Prof. E. Van Buskirk

Tuesday 1:30pm -4:20pm, AB-4052 (CAC)

515.01 STUDY IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE: Vanitas: Transcience and Death in Early Modern and Contemporary Culture

Prof. C. Benthein

Tuesday 4:30pm -7:10pm, AB-4050 (CAC)

Cross list: 16:470:670:01

The graduate seminar will explore the Baroque semantics and iconography of *vanitas* in (German) literature and the visual arts. Using this historical background we will then look at contemporary arts and culture, since it is a curious phenomenon that figurations of the Baroque transience trope prominently reappear in recent literature, visual arts, media and, cultural theory. It seems that the trope incorporates notions of temporality that correspond both to contemporary aesthetics and anthropology, including the synchronicity of present and future, the negation of linear time, the simultaneous denial and omnipresence of death, the anticipation of decay in the midst of beauty, etc. The central question to discuss is why a pre-modern temporal concept gains such a virulence for contemporary culture. The seminar will also inquire the functions of these partly morbid recourses, to be found in representations of human skulls in photographic works and sculptures, in the time-based aesthetics of neo-baroque 'still lifes' in video art, or the dealing with mortal diseases in narrative prose (Hans Pleschinski: *Bildnis eines Unsichtbaren*; Tino Hanekamp: *So was von da*; Wolfgang Herrndorf: *Arbeit und Struktur*). *Vanitas* poems by authors such as Ulla Hahn, Ursula Krechel, Durs Grünbein, and Jan Wagner will be discussed, and, in addition, two highly relevant films (*Elegy*, dir. Isabel Coixet, and *Tourists*, dir. Alicia Scherson).

516.01 TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE: Impossible Economies: Love and Prostitution

Prof. N. Berhmann

Tuesday 1:30pm -4:20pm, AB-4050 (CAC)

Cross list: 16:470:672:01

This seminar explores the figurations, rhetoric, and economies of trading sex in a variety of literary master texts and films: If it is true that the figure of the prostitute serves as a mere projection or screen

for deviant fantasies in literature and film, what is the impact of such writing over an exchanged body? In what way does the love of the “prostitute” inform Russian Realism, French Symbolism, or German Expressionism? How can we think the gift of/in prostitution? What is really being exchanged in the sporadic encounter with a sex worker? What is the relation between love, sex trade, and the gift? Literary participants in this investigation will be the Marquis de Sade, Fyodor M. Dostoevsky, Charles Baudelaire, Frank Wedekind, Robert Musil, Elfriede Jelinek, Werner Schwab, and Dennis Cooper. Filmic contributions by Michael Glawogger, Luis Buñuel, and Ulrich Seidl; music by Giuseppe Verdi and Alban Berg. Discussions will be framed and guided by Theodor W. Adorno/Max Horkheimer, Georges Bataille, Walter Benjamin, Jacques Derrida, Sigmund Freud, Luce Irigaray, Jacques Lacan, Jean-François Lyotard, Catharine MacKinnon, and Karl Marx.

Taught in English.

Course Requirements: 1 formal presentation (30%), 1 peer review (20%), 1 final research paper (50%).

518.01 INDIVIDUAL STUDY IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Hours By arrangement

521.01 TOPICS IN NON-WESTERN LITERATURE: **Tales of Genji as World Literature**

Prof. J. Walker

Monday 9:50am -12:50pm, AB 4052 (CAC)

Cross list: 16:565:475:01

608.01 ADVANCED TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE: **Theories of the Body and Hispanic Film**

Prof. S. Martin-Marquez

Thursday 4:30 -9:00pm, AB 4140 (CAC)

Cross list: 16:940:660:01

621.01 NON-WESTERN LITERATURE

Prof. R. Larrier ; Prof. O. Alidou

Thursday 4:30 -7:10pm, AB 4190 (CAC)

Cross list: 16:420:675:01; 01:13:402:01