The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

GHOSTWRITING: THE GHOST IN AND AS LITERATURE - 19512

Last update 07-05-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: General and Comparative Literature

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Carola Hilfrich

Coordinator Email: carola.hilfrich@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 16.30-17.30

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Carola Hilfrich

Course/Module description:
The seminar explores the appearance of ghosts in modern literatures, as well as the possibility to speak of literature as a ghost which appears "to test us, remind us of our responsibility, demand justice" (D. Attridge). In view of the increasing interest in ghostly matters in various fields of knowledge across the humanities and social sciences, including philosophy, sociology, history, political theory, film, gender, and cultural studies, we shall consider the specific contribution of literary imagination to the contemporary study of hauntings. As an articulation of the forgotten, the repressed, and the latent, and as a figure that crosses boundaries of authority, language, culture, class, race, and sexuality, the ghost testifies uneasily to both our living past and our living future. It situates us within a present that is loaded, dense, and "out of joint." Through chosen works of literature we explore the architecture of feeling, thinking, and doing in the haunted house of fiction.

Course/Module aims:
To enable students to use critical and theoretical thought in the analysis of works of modern fiction, by way of a study of "ghostwriting" as metafiction

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
• Examine specific works of ghost fiction
• Analyze central elements of ghostwriting with regard to specific historical and social contexts
• Discuss different theoretical approaches to ghostwriting

Attendance requirements(%):
100 %

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lectures, close reading, discussion, oral presentations, final or seminar papers

Course/Module Content:
1. Opening
2. Derek Attridge, “Ghost Writing,” in: Deconstruction is/in America. A New Sense of the Political. Ed. by Anselm Haverkamp, New York & London: New York University

Press 1995: 223-227
3. William Shakespeare, Hamlet [http://shakespeare.mit.edu/hamlet/full.html]
4. Marjorie Garber, “Shakespeare’s ghost writers,” in: Shakespeare’s Ghost Writers. Literature as Uncanny Causality. New York: Methuen 1987: 1-27 / Jacques Derrida, "Injunctions of Marx," in: Specters of Marx. The State of the Debt, the Work of Mourning, & the New International, transl. by Peggy Kamuf, London: Routledge 1994: 3-23
5. Sigmund Freud, "The Uncanny" (in Hebrew)
6. E.T.A.Hoffmann, "The Sandman" (in Hebrew) / Hélène Cixous, "Fiction and its Phantoms: A Reading of Freud's Das Unheimliche," in: New Literary History, Vol. 7, No. 3, Spring 1976: 525-548
7. Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener. A Story of Wall Street” (1853) [http://www.bartleby.com/129/]
8. Thomas Augst, “The Melancholy of White Collar Work: Professional Ethos and the Literary Sphere,” in: The Clerk’s Tale. Young Men and Moral Life in Nineteenth-Century America, Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press 2003: 207-254 / Naomi C. Reed, “The Specter of Wall Street: “Bartleby the Scrivener and the Language of Commodities,” American Literature 76.2 (2004): 247-273
9. Toni Morrison, Beloved. New York: Alfred A. Knopf 1987
10. Homi Bhabha, “Introduction: Locations of Culture,” in: The Location of Culture. New York: Routledge 1994: 1-18
11. Avery F. Gordon, “not only the footprints but the water too and what is down there,” in: Ghostly Matters. Haunting and the Sociological Imagination. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press 1997 [2nd edition 2008]: 137-190
12. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "Ghosts," Zoetrope All Story, Vol. 8, Winter 2004, http://www.all-story.com/issues.cgi?action&eq;show_story&story_id&eq;250
13. Alice Munro, "Carried Away" (1991), in: Open Secrets, New York: Vintage Books 1994
14. Conclusion

Required Reading:
see above

Additional Reading Material:
Abraham, Nicolas, “Notes on the Phantom: A Complement to Freud’s Metapsychology,” (1975) in: Nicolas Abraham and Maria Torok, The Shell and the Kernel. Renewals of Psychoanalysis Volume 1, ed. by Nicholas T. Rand, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press 1994: 170-177
Bennett, Gillian, Alas, Poor Ghost! Traditions of Belief in Story and Discourse. Logan: Utah State University Press 1999
Brogan, Kathleen, Cultural Haunting: Ghosts and Ethnicity in Recent American Literature. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia 1998
Buse, Peter and Scott, Andrew (eds), Ghosts. Deconstruction, Psychoanalysis,

History. London: Macmillan and New York: St. Martin's 1999
Calvino, Italo, "Cybernetics and Ghosts," in: The Uses of Literature. San Diego, New York, London. Harcourt Brace & Company 1986: 3-27 [http://interactive.usc.edu/members/akratky/W8_Cybernetics_and_Ghosts.pdf]
Castricano, Jodey, "Cryptomimesis. The Gothic and Jacques Derrida's Ghost Writing," Gothic Studies 2, 1 (2000): 8-22
Cheah, Pheng, Spectral Nationality: Passages of Freedom from Kant to Postcolonial Literatures of Liberation, New York: Columbia University Press 2003
Cixous, Hélène, "Fictions and Its Phantoms: A Reading of Freud's "Das Unheimliche" ("The Uncanny"), New Literary History 7: 3 (Spring 1976): 525-548
Cox, Michael and Gilbert, R.A. (eds.), The Oxford Book of Twentieth Century Ghost Stories. Oxford: Oxford University Press 1996
Davis, Kimberly Chabot, "Generational Hauntings. The Family Romance in Contemporary Fictions of Raced History," Modern Fiction Studies 48, 3 (Fall 2002): 727-36.
Davis, Colin, Haunted Subjects: Deconstruction, Psychoanalysis, and the Return of the Dead. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan 2007
Derrida, Jacques, Specters of Marx: The State of the Debt, the Work of Mourning, & the New International (1993), transl. by Peggy Kamuf. New York & London: Routledge 1994
Finucane, R.C., Appearances of the Dead: A Cultural History of Ghosts. London: Junction Books 1982
Ghosh, Bishnupriya, "On Grafting the Vernacular: The Consequences of Postcolonial Spectrology," boundary 31, 2 (2004):197-218
Goodall, Jane, "Haunted Places," in: McAuley, Gay (ed) Unstable Ground: Performance and the Politics of Place. Brussels: Peter Lang; 2008: 111-123
Hall, Melissa Mia, "Ghosts," in: Icons of Horror and the Supernatural: An Encyclopedia of Our Worst Nightmares. Ed by S.T. Joshi. Westport: Greenwood 2007: 215-242
Hilfrich, Carola, "The Self is a People: Autoethnographic Poetics in Hélene Cixous's Fictions," New Literary History 37, 1 (Winter 2006): 217-235
Holmgren, Maria and Wennö, Elisabeth (eds), Space, Haunting, Discourse. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars; 2008
Lane, Christopher, "The Testament of the Other: Abraham and Torok's Failed Expiation of Ghosts," Diacritics: A Review of Contemporary Criticism, 27, 4 (Winter 1997): 3-29
Monleón, José B., A Specter is Haunting Europe. A Sociohistorical Approach to the Fantastic, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1990
Price, Leah, "From Ghostwriter to Typewriter: Delegating Authority at Fin de Siècle," in: The Faces of Anonymity: Anonymous and Pseudonymous Publications from the Sixteenth to the Twentieth Century. Ed. by Robert Griffin New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan 2003: 211-231
Ronell, Avital, Dictations. On Haunted Writing. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press (1986) 2006
Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty, "Ghostwriting," Diacritics 25, 2 (Summer 1995): 65-84
Stallybrass, Peter, "Hauntings. The Materiality of Memory on the Renaissance

Stage," in: Finucci, Valeria (ed. and introd.); Brownlee, Kevin (ed.) Generation and Degeneration: Tropes of Reproduction in Literature and History from Antiquity through Early Modern Europe. Durham: Duke University Press 2001: 287-316
Sword, Helen, Ghostwriting Modernism. Ithaca: Cornell University Press 2002
Wolfreys, Julian, Victorian Hauntings: Spectrality, Gothic, the Uncanny and Literature Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan 2002

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 80 %
Presentation 20 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
none