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

5. Sigmund Freud, "The Uncanny" (in Hebrew)


14. Conclusion

Required Reading:
see above

Additional Reading Material:


Bennett, Gillian, Alas, Poor Ghost! Traditions of Belief in Story and Discourse. Logan: Utah State University Press 1999


Cixous, Hélène, “Fictions and Its Phantoms: A Reading of Freud’s Das Unheimliche (The Uncanny),” New Literary History 7: 3 (Spring 1976): 525-548
Davis, Kimberly Chabot, Generational Hauntings. The Family Romance in Contemporary Fictions of Raced History, Modern Fiction Studies 48, 3 (Fall 2002): 727-36.
Hilfrich, Carola, The Self is a People: Autoethnographic Poetics in Hélène Cixous’s Fictions, New Literary History 37, 1 (Winter 2006): 217-235
Holmgren, Maria and Wennström, Elisabeth (eds), Space, Haunting, Discourse. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars; 2008
Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty, Ghostwriting, Diacritics 25, 2 (Summer 1995): 65-84

**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