The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Making it strange: The Aesthetics of Estrangement - 26829

Last update 28-08-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: German, Russian & East European Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Nina Rudnik

 Coordinator Email: Nina.Rudnik@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday, 15:00 - 16:00

Teaching Staff:
  Dr. Nina Rudnick

Course/Module description:
  The course deals with the concept of estrangement as formulated in Viktor Shklovsky's theory in comparison with other aesthetic approaches to the problems of defamiliarization and alienation such as those of Berthold Brecht, Mikhail Bakhtin and others. The focus of our discussion will be the question of aesthetic distance in literature, art, theatre and cinema. The analysis will be illustrated by visual materials connected to the topic.

Course/Module aims:
  The aim of the course is to analyse the theory of estrangement in comparison with other aesthetic approaches to the problems of defamiliarization and alienation.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
  1. To acquire the necessary knowledge of the Formalist theory of estrangement and its genesis
2. To compare the concept of estrangement with other aesthetic approaches to the problems of defamiliarization and alienation such as Leo Tolstoy's theory of art, psychoanalysis, Mikhail Bakhtin's ideas etc
3. To acquire the necessary knowledge of literary and cultural development in the époque of Modernism and Avant-Garde
4. To enrich the acquaintance with the system of literary genres in Russian literature of the period
5. To equip themselves with theoretical methods and categories for the analysis of various artistic texts of the period
6. To improve their analytic ability as regards literature and art

Attendance requirements(%):
  _80%_

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lectures, reports, presentations

Course/Module Content:
  1. Russian Avant-garde and Russian Formalism: the case of Viktor Shklovsky.

Estrangement as a literary device and a principle of art
2. Toward a Historical Poetics of Estrangement (1): from Socrates to Kant
3. Toward a Historical Poetics of Estrangement (2): from Kant to Bergson
4. Leo Tolstoy's theory of art and Shklovsky's idea of estrangement
5. Estrangement and psychoanalysis
6. Formalist theory of prose
7. Formalist theory of poetry
8. Formalist theory of literary evolution
9. Formalist theory of cinema
10. Russian Formalism versus the ideas of Mikhail Bakhtin
11. Estrangement and the Russian Modernist theater
12. Berthold Brecht's theory of Verfremdung
13. Poetics and politics: Marxism and the theory of estrangement
14. Estrangement revisited: from defamiliarization to différance

Required Reading:
 Shklovskii, V. Theory of Prose, trans. Benjamin Sher. Elmwood Park, Il : Dalkey Archive Press ; 1991.
Shklovsky, V. The resurrection of the word (1914); Poetry and prose in cinematography (1927). In: Bann, S., & Bowlt, J. (1973). Russian Formalism: A Collection of Articles and Texts in Translation (20th century studies). Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press.
Eikhenbaum, B. Literature and cinema (1926). In: Bann, S., & Bowlt, J. (1973). Russian Formalism.
Eikhenbaum, B. (1982). The Poetics of Cinema; ed. Richard Taylor (Russian poetics in translation; no. 9, 1982). Oxford: Russian Poetics in Translation Publications.
Tyn͡ia͡nov, Yuri. (1981). The Problem of Verse Language; edited and translated by Michael Sosa & Brent Harvey. Ann Arbor: Ardis.
Jakobson, Roman. Poetry of Grammar and Grammar of Poetry. In: Jakobson, Roman. (1985). Verbal art, verbal sign, verbal time; ed. by Kristina Pomorska & Stephen Rudy. Oxford: Basil Blackwell. https://monoskop.org/images/2/27/Jakobson_Roman_ Verbal_Art_Verbal_Sign_Verbal_Time.pdf
Tynianov, Jurii. On literary evolution (1927). In: Matejka, L., & Pomorska, K. (1971). Readings in Russian poetics: Formalist and Structuralist views. Cambridge: MIT Press.
Erlich, V. (1975). Twentieth-century Russian Literary Criticism. New Haven: Yale University Press.
Erlich, V. (1981). Russian Formalism: History, Doctrine (3rd ed.). New Haven: Yale University Press. PG 3026 F6 E7 1969
Voloshinov, V.N., Bakhtin, M. M. (1973). Marxism and the Philosophy of Language; translated by Ladislav Matejka and I. R. Titunik. New York: Seminar Press.
Emerson, Caryl. Shklovsky's ostranenie, Bakhtin's vnenakhodimost' (How Distance Serves an Aesthetics of Arousal Differently from an Aesthetics Based on Pain) // Poetics Today (2005) 26 (4): 637-664. https://doi.org/10.1215/03335372-26-4-637

Holquist, Michael; Kliger, Ilya. Minding the Gap: Toward a Historical Poetics of Estrangement // Poetics Today (2005) 26 (4): 613-636.
https://doi.org/10.1215/03335372-26-4-613
Ginzburg, Carlo. Making Things Strange: The Prehistory of a Literary Device // Representations No. 56, Special Issue: The New Erudition (Autumn, 1996), pp. 8-28
https://www.jstor.org/stable/2928705
Crawford, Lawrence. Viktor Shklovskij: Différance in Defamiliarization. Comparative Literature 36 (1984): 209-19. JSTOR 1770260
Robinson, D. (2008). Estrangement and the Somatics of literature: Tolstoy, Shklovsky, Brecht. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Additional Reading Material:

Poetics Today (2005) 26 (4). Estrangement Revisited, part I.
Poetics Today (2006) 27 (1). Estrangement Revisited, part II.
Jakobson, Roman. (1985). Verbal art, verbal sign, verbal time; ed. by Kristina Pomorska & Stephen Rudy. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
Lemon, L., & Reis, M. (1965). Russian Formalist Criticism: Four Essays. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
O'Toole, L., & Shukman, A. (1978). Formalism: History, comparison, genre (Russian poetics in translation ; no. 5, 1978). Colchester: University of Essex.
Pomorska, K. (1968). Russian Formalist Theory and its Poetic Ambiance. The Hague: Mouton.
Matejka, L., & Pomorska, K. (1971). Readings in Russian poetics: Formalist and Structuralist views. Cambridge: MIT Press
Hansen-Löve, Aage. (1978). Der russische Formalismus. Methodologische Rekonstruktion seiner Entwicklung aus dem Prinzip der Verfremdung. Vienna: Verlag der Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1978.
Jackson, Robert Louis, & Rudy, Stephen. (1985). Russian Formalism: A Retrospective Glance: A Festschrift in Honor of Victor Erlich. New Haven: Yale Center for International and Area Studies.
Striedter, Jurij.(1989). Literary Structure, Evolution, and Value: Russian Formalism and Czech Structuralism Reconsidered. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.
Lane, R. (2013). Global Literary Theory: An Anthology. New York: Routledge. Mt. Scopus 4th Floor Green Shelves PN 45 G5276 2013
Mole, Gary D. (1997). Levinas, Blanchot, Jabes: Figures of estrangement Gainesville, Fla: University Press of Florida.
Salerno, R. (2003). Landscapes of Abandonment Capitalism, Modernity, and Estrangement Albany: State University of New York Press.
Smith, A. (1996). Julia Kristeva: Readings of Exile and Estrangement. Basingstoke: Macmillan.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 20 %
Participation in Tutorials 15 %
Project work 65 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: