



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### **WRITERS BLOCK: FROM THE ROMANTICS TO THE DIGITAL AGE - 44847**

*Last update 06-10-2021*

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: English

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Yael Levin

Coordinator Email: [yael.levin@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:yael.levin@mail.huji.ac.il)

Coordinator Office Hours: By Appointment

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Yael Levin

Course/Module description:

The course explores the significant connection between the evolution of the subject as a philosophical concept and the way we understand agency and inspiration in moments of creativity. We will tease out the dynamic relation between the two by attending to the scene of interrupted writing in works of fiction and poetry from Romanticism to the present. Close readings will be accompanied by a number of critical essays that reflect on authorship and the subject.

Course/Module aims:

Students will acquire a working knowledge of the concept of subjectivity and the manner in which it evolves through the ages - from Romanticism to Modernism to Post-Modernism.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Students will develop their own research project based on the materials covered in the course of the year.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Seminar discussions

Course/Module Content:

Poetry

Coleridge, "Kubla Khan"

Stevie Smith, "Thoughts about the Person from Porlock"

Short Story

Henry James, "The Lesson of the Master"

Novels

Joseph Conrad, *Under Western Eyes*

Samuel Beckett, *Molloy*

J.M. Coetzee, *Slow Man*

Stephen King, *The Shining*

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*Villa-Matas, Bartleby & Co.*

*Films*

*Stanley Kubrick, The Shining*

*The Coen Brothers, Barton Fink*

*Other:*

*Von Hofmannshtal, Hugo. "Letter [from Lord Chandos.]" Selected Prose. Trans. Mary Hottinger and Tania and James Stern. New York: Pantheon Books, 1952, pp 129-41.*

*Theory*

*Roland Barthes, "The Death of the Author," Image/text/music. Trans. Stephen Heath (NY: Hill and Wang) 1977.*

*Maurice Blanchot, The Space of Literature. Trans. Ann Smock, Lincoln: U of Nebraska Press, 1982.*

*Michel Foucault, "What is an Author." Language, Counter-Memory, Practice. Ed. Donald F. Bouchard. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1977. 113-138.*

*Required Reading:*

*Poetry*

*Coleridge, "Kubla Khan"*

*Stevie Smith, "Thoughts about the Person from Porlock"*

*Short Story*

*Henry James, "The Lesson of the Master"*

*Novels*

*Joseph Conrad, Under Western Eyes*

*Samuel Beckett, Molloy*

*J.M. Coetzee, Slow Man*

*Stephen King, The Shining*

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*Films*

*Stanley Kubrick, The Shining*

*The Coen Brothers, Barton Fink*

*Other:*

*Von Hofmannshtal, Hugo. "Letter [from Lord Chandos.]" Selected Prose. Trans. Mary Hottinger and Tania and James Stern. New York: Pantheon Books, 1952, pp 129-41.*

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Michel Foucault, "What is an Author." *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice*. Ed. Donald F. Bouchard. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1977. 113-138.

Additional Reading Material:

Additional Reading:

Andrew Bennett. *Romantic Poets and the Culture of Posterity*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1999.

Seán Burke. *Authorship: From Plato to the Postmodern A Reader*. Edinburg: Edinburgh UP, 1995.

---. *The Death and Return of the Author: Criticism and Subjectivity in Barthes, Foucault and Derrida*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 1998.

Lucy Newlyn, "Reading After": The Anxiety of the Writing Subject *Studies in Romanticism* 35.4 (1996 Winter): 609-628.

Timothy Clark, *The Theory of Inspiration: Composition as a Crisis of Subjectivity in Romantic and Post-Romantic Writing*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2000.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 40 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 60 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: