



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Representing Violence - 8219

Last update 14-10-2020

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: "Amirim" Honors Program

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Naomi Mandel

Coordinator Email: naomi.mandel1@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: After class and by appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof NAOMI MANDEL

Course/Module description:

The objective of this seminar is to explore the modalities of violence in a range of forms and contexts. We will explore how violence, and its representation, function as a site where our relations with ourselves, our relations with others, and our interactions with society can be productively, and creatively, revised.

Course/Module aims:

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

Analyze the impact of representation on the perception of violence; engage in artistic, critical, and philosophical work on the subject; extend course content to interdisciplinary contexts; practice performing in an academic context in English.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: synchronous and a- synchronous

Course/Module Content:

*Week 1 introduction.
Violence and/as representation*

*Section 1
A history of violence*

*Week 2 Power
Franz Kafka, "In the penal colony"*

*Week 3 Trauma
Alain Renais, dir. Hiroshima mon Amour*

*Week 4 Testimony
Narrative and history
"The Confessions of Nat Turner" (1831)*

Section 2

Violence between fantasy and reality

Week 5: Aesthetics

Art Spiegelman, Maus II: And here my troubles began.

Week 6 Identity

William Styron's Confessions of Nat Turner (selections)

William Styron's Nat Turner: Ten Black Writers Respond(selections)

Week 7: Violence on screen

Julian Dibbell, "A Rape in Cyberspace or How an Evil Clown, a Haitian Trickster Spirit, Two Wizards, and a Cast of Dozens Turned a Database into a Society" (1994)

Week 8: No class! Meet with instructors about your projects. Start reading American Psycho!

Section 3

Test case: Violent Fiction

TRIGGER ALERT: American Psycho is one of the most controversial texts ever published. Its depictions of torture, rape, and mutilation may be disturbing for some students. Students who are sensitive to these issues are directed to avoid the following chapters:

Week 9

Bret Easton Ellis, American Psycho p. 1-200

Week 10

Bret Easton Ellis, American Psycho p. 200-300

Tara Baxter, "There are better ways of taking care of Bret Easton Ellis than Just Censoring Him..."

Week 11

Bret Easton Ellis, American Psycho p. 300-400

Mailer, Norman. "Children of the Pied Piper." Vanity Fair 54.3 (1991): 154.

Week 12

Mary Harron, dir. American Psycho

Section 4

Violence: Interdisciplinary Contexts

Week 13

Group Presentations

Week 14

Group Presentations

Required Reading:

Art Spiegelman, Maus II: And here my troubles began. (1992)

Bret Easton Ellis, American Psycho (1991)

Additional readings on course Moodle

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 10 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 10 %

Assignments 20 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 60 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

Students should plan to purchase Art Spiegelman's Maus II: And here my troubles began and Bret Easton Ellis's American Psycho. All other readings will be provided as pdfs on Moodle.

Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Diagnosis and Support of Students with Learning Disabilities, or the Office for Students with Disabilities, as early as possible, to discuss and coordinate accommodations, based on relevant documentation.