

Prof. Michael G. Levine
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Spring 2016
German 16:470:670:01
Comp Lit 16:195:608:01
Philosophy 16:730:524:01
172 College Ave Seminar Room
W 4:30-7:10pm

Poetic and Philosophical Encounters

The course examines crucial – but also crucially missed -- encounters between poets and philosophers in 20th and 21st-century European thought. Texts discussed include Heidegger's seminal readings of Hölderlin, Derrida's writings on Mallarmé and Celan, Hamacher's analysis of the famous encounter between Celan and Heidegger at the latter's hut in the Black Forest, and Celan's prose poem "Conversation in the Mountains" written in the wake of a missed encounter with Adorno. Of particular concern will be the political implications of Heidegger's turn to poetry in the 1930s and Adorno's famous dictum about the barbarity of writing poetry after Auschwitz. If one is to continue to write poetry after "that which happened" (Celan), how must it be done differently? What new relations between poetry and philosophy does this entail? Students are encouraged to read texts in the original French and German but English translations will be provided for all works assigned and discussions will be conducted in English.

All readings available on Sakai

<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/e6747569-dbd2-43f3-83ad-9bfe8ff5f7ad/page/240995dd-bbaa-4880-b382-e60e1b59fa5e>

When accessing this material it is necessary to use your RU Eden account address.

Grading

Students are required to submit one 20-page at the end of the semester but may also opt to do two 10-page or three 6-7-page papers in the course of the semester. All are also required to do an in-class presentation on a topic chosen in consultation with the professor.

Attendance

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse (a doctor's or college dean's note, for instance) should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Three late arrivals count as one absence. Note: It is the responsibility of students who have been absent (for any reason) to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to his or her dean for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than your own, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

Disability Support Services

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with teachers about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

Cell Phones

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, MP3players...) must be turned off during class out of respect for the instructor and fellow students. Please schedule all important phone communications outside of class time.

Schedule of Classes (subject to change) (cancelled classes will be made on dates arranged with students)

Syllabus

January 20	Introduction
January 27	Heidegger and Hölderlin <i>Erläuterungen zu Hölderlins Dichtung</i> <i>Elucidations of Hölderlin's Poetry</i> "Heimkunft/An die Verwandten" "Homecoming/To Kindred Ones" „Hölderlin und das Wesen der Dichtung“ „Hölderlin and the Essence of Poetry“
February 3	Heidegger and Hölderlin „Wie wenn am Feiertage...“ „As when on a Holiday“ „Andenken“

	„Remembrance“
February 10	Heidegger and Hölderlin „Hölderlins Erde und Himmel“ „Hölderlin’s Earth and Heaven“ „Das Gedicht“ „The Poem“
February 17	Derrida and Mallarmé Mallarmé, <i>Crise de vers</i> «Crisis of Verse Mallarmé, <i>Un coup de dées</i> A Throw of the Dice Derrida, „La double séance” (<i>La dissémination</i> pp. 199-318) The Double Session (<i>Dissemination</i> pp.172-286)
February 24	Derrida and Mallarmé (cont.)
March 2	Celan, „Bremen Rede“ „Bremen Address“ Celan, „Der Meridian“ „The Meridian“ Levine, „Pendant: Celan, Büchner and the Terrible Voice of the Meridian”
March 9	Celan Poetological Addresses (cont.)
March 16	Spring Break
March 23	Celan and Adorno „Gespräch im Gebirg“ Conversation in the Mountains Adorno, „Kulturkritik und Gesellschaft“ Adorno, „Cultural Criticism and Society“ Adorno, „Commitment“
March 30	Celan and Heidegger I „Todtnauberg“ Hamacher, „WASEN: Um Celans <i>Todtnauberg</i> ” “WASEN: On Celan’s <i>Todtnauberg</i> ”
April 6	Celan and Heidegger II „Todtnauberg“ Hamacher, „WASEN: Um Celans <i>Todtnauberg</i> ”

WASEN: On Celan's *Todtnauberg*

- April 13 Derrida, *Shibboleth: Pour Paul Celan*
Shibboleth: for Paul Celan
Celan, selected poems
- April 20 Derrida and Celan (cont.)
- April 27 Conclusions