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Fall 2015
01:470:388:01
01:195:395:01
Hardenbergh Hall B2 (T)
Hardenbergh Hall A4 (TH)
TTh5 2:30-4:10

Love Letters

Course Description: An examination of the intimacies, estrangements, enigmas and vagaries of love through the correspondence of a number of famous men and women of letters. Our exploration of the epistolary genre will range between private letters and published literary works and seek to read the one in conjunction with the other. Of particular concern will be structures of direct and indirect address, the use of pet names and invention of secret codes and idioms, the materiality of the letter and the postal network, epistolary conventions, and the ties through which poetry, philosophy, literature, personal and public correspondence are themselves intimately bound. Readings include selections from the letters of Friedrich Hölderlin and Susette Gontard (Diotima), Franz Kafka and Felice Bauer, Paul Celan and Ingeborg Bachmann, Walter Benjamin and Gretel Karplus Adorno. We will also read epistolary novels, poetry, criticism, and philosophical works by Goethe, Hölderlin, Celan, Bachmann, Barthes, Derrida, Siegert, and Benjamin. Discussion in English; all readings available in English translation and also in the original German or French whenever relevant.

Books to be purchased at Rutgers University Bookstore Gateway Transit Bldg - 100 Somerset Street:

Goethe, *The Sorrows of Young Werther* ISBN 978-0-19-958302-7
Correspondence (Seagull Books) by Celan, Paul, Bachman, Ingeborg 2010
Correspondence Walter Benjamin and Gretel Adorno ISBN 13: 978074569023
Derrida, *The Post Card*, ISBN 13: 978-0226143224
Canetti, *Kafka's Other Trial* 0-8052-0705-8

Sakai

<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/7ecf7c27-beb7-4696-9844-faed103a2ec9>

All other readings available on course website on Sakai

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

Grading

Students are required to submit three 6-page papers, each of which will count as 30% of their grade. The remaining 10% will be based on class participation. Paper topics will be distributed prior to each assignment.

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.

Requirements

Students are required to write three 6-page papers in the course of the semester. In addition to the written work, each student will be assigned a particular guest lecturer to introduce to the class.

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

September 3Th Introduction

September 8T Franz Kafka and Felice Bauer

- Canetti, *Kafka's Other Trial* 1-25
Kafka, *Letters to Felice* (Sakai) 5-8, 10-23, 32-33, 59-60, 86,
99-137, 150-2
- September 10Th Franz Kafka and Felice Bauer
Canetti, *Kafka's Other Trial* 26-60
Kafka, *Letters to Felice* (Sakai) 158-60, 163, 175-6, 185, 202,
209-15, 224-28, 233-38, 249, 257, 264-69, 270-1, 287-88, 293,
309, 315-16, 385, 405
- September 15T Rosh Hashonah Class to be rescheduled
- September 17Th *Franz Kafka, Felice Bauer, Milena Jesenská*
Canetti, *Kafka's Other Trial* (cont.)
Kafka, *Letters to Felice* (Sakai)
Kafka, Letters to Milena (Sakai)
- September 22T Goethe, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*
May 4, 1771-July 19, 1771
- September 24Th Goethe, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*
July 20, 1771-July 29, 1772
- September 29T Goethe, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*
August 4-December 6, 1772
- October 1Th Class Cancelled (to be rescheduled)
- October 6T Goethe, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*
[The Editor to the Reader-End]
- October 8Th Goethe, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*

Barthes, *A Lover's Discourse: Fragments*

October 13T

Barthes, *A Lover's Discourse: Fragments*

FIRST 6-PAGE PAPER DUE

October 15Th

Siegert, *Relays: Literature as an Epoch of the Postal System* 1-61

October 20T

Siegert, *Relays: Literature as an Epoch of the Postal System* 62-83,
128-165

October 22Th

Siegert, *Relays: Literature as an Epoch of the Postal System* 207-
264

October 27T

Class Cancelled (to be rescheduled)

Friedrich Hölderlin and Susette Gontard

*The recalcitrant art : Diotima's letters to Hölderlin and related
missives* (Sakai)

October 29Th

Derrida, *The Post Card*

Envois: 5-64

November 3T

Derrida, *The Post Card*

Envois: 64-125

November 5Th

Derrida, *The Post Card*

Envois: 125-188

November 10T

Derrida, *The Post Card*

Envois: 188-256

SECOND 6-PAGE PAPER DUE

November 12Th

Class cancelled (to be rescheduled)

November 17T Ingeborg Bachmann-Paul Celan Correspondence
Ingeborg Bachmann and Paul Celan *Correspondence* 3-72

November 19Th Bachmann-Celan Correspondence
Ingeborg Bachmann and Paul Celan *Correspondence* 72-157

November 24T Bachmann-Celan Correspondence
Ingeborg Bachmann and Paul Celan *Correspondence* 157-309

November 26Th Thanksgiving

December 1T Walter Benjamin-Gretel Karplus Adorno
Correspondence 1930-1940 1-102

December 3Th Class cancelled (to be rescheduled)

December 8T Benjamin Gretel Karplus Adorno
Correspondence 1930-1940 102-202

December 10Th Benjamin Gretel Karplus Adorno
Correspondence 1930-1940 202-290

December 14 **FINAL 6-PAGE PAPER DUE (TO BE SUBMITTED VIA
EMAIL)**

