

Prof. Michael G. Levine
172 College Avenue
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4:30-6pm
Tel. 732-932-7201
mglevine@rci.rutgers.edu

Fall 2015
01:090:101:41
Scott Hall 106
W5 2:50-4:10pm

Byrne Seminar: The Trials of Franz Kafka

Course Description: An examination of three key moments in the life of Franz Kafka and the afterlife of his writing. The first concerns his reference to the traumatic, public breaking-off of his engagement to Felice Brauer as a "tribunal." The second focuses on the connection between this humiliating experience and the novel, *The Trial*, on which he began work less than a month later. The third involves the recent Israeli trial conducted to decide who owns Kafka's posthumous writings (including the manuscript of *The Trial*), which the author had asked his friend, Max Brod, to destroy after his death. Through an examination of letters, novels, literary criticism, and debates surrounding the Israeli proceedings, the course traces the theme of the trial through Kafka's writings, examining in the process the relationship between life and art, the literary and the legal.

Books to be Purchased:

Canetti, *Kafka's Other Trial* 0-8052-0705-8
Kafka, *The Trial: A New Translation Based on the Restored Text* (The Schocken Kafka Library) by Franz Kafka Paperback
Kafka, Montellier, Mairowitz, *The Trial* (Illustrated Classics): A Graphic Novel Paperback

Sakai

All other readings available on course website on Sakai
<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/b13d7c40-2057-4afd-9bcc-129a049cb925/page/ccf72d45-3133-481a-b86a-889859ae9c7d>
under the title "The Byrne Seminars 41 F15, subheading "Resources." When accessing this material it is necessary to use your RU Eden account address.

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)

September 2	Introduction
September 9	Canetti, <i>Kafka's Other Trial</i> 3-29
September 16	Canetti, <i>Kafka's Other Trial</i> 29-60
September 23	Yom Kippur No class (to be rescheduled)
September 30	Class Cancelled (to be rescheduled) Kafka, <i>The Trial</i> Chapters 1-2

October 7	Kafka, <i>The Trial</i> Chapters 3-4
October 14	Kafka, <i>The Trial</i> Chapters 5-6
October 21	Kafka, <i>The Trial</i> Chapters 7-8
October 28	Class Cancelled (to be rescheduled) Kafka, <i>The Trial</i> Chapters 9-10
November 4	Canetti, <i>Kafka's Other Trial</i> 63-94
November 11	Kafka, Montellier, Mairowitz, <i>The Trial: A Graphic Novel</i> Canetti, <i>Kafka's Other Trial</i> 94-118
November 18	Class Cancelled (to be rescheduled) Butler, "Who Owns Kafka?" (Sakai) <i>Kafka's Last Story</i>
November 25	Butler, "Who Owns Kafka?" (Sakai)
December 2	Kafka, Montellier, Mairowitz, <i>The Trial: A Graphic Novel</i> Guest speaker: Damian Grammatikopoulos
December 9	Kafka, Montellier, Mairowitz, <i>The Trial: A Graphic Novel</i>