

**Professor Jason Groves**  
**jason.groves@yale.edu**  
**Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-4:00 p.m.**

**Topics: Dreams and Delusions**

**Taught in English**

**(3 credits)**

**Spring 2015**

**01:470:390:01**

TTh4 1:10-2:30pm, German House Seminar Room (Room 102)

Course Description

The interpretation of dreams is the royal road to a knowledge of the unconscious," Freud famously wrote in 1900. More than one hundred years later, we will look back at the many inroads that literature and art had made into Freud's knowledge of the unconscious, while also inquiring into what dreams might mean today and how film in particular has challenged and extended Freud's theories. Throughout the semester, students will develop their own practices of dream interpretation by keeping a dream journal, writing several essays, attending screenings, and participating in class discussion.

**Books to Be Purchased:**

Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (Basic Books, 2010) ISBN 978-0465019779

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Hackett, 1993) ISBN 9780872201927

Freud, *Gradiva and Delusion and Dream in Wilhelm Jensen's Gradiva* (Green Integer Books, 2003)

ISBN: 9781892295897

**RECOMMENDED:**

Peter Wortsman (translator), *Tales of the German Imagination* (Penguin, 2013) ISBN: 9780141198804

**ALL OTHER READINGS AVAILABLE ON SAKAI AT:**

You can log on using your Net ID and password. If the course does not appear as one of your tabs, please search and add it or contact me and I will grant you access. Some of the reading will be available via Sakai and you are required to print and bring those readings to class on the scheduled days as part of your class participation grade. Please check Sakai frequently for updates, announcements, and resources. You can also communicate with your classmates via Sakai in the Chat Room or pose questions in the Forum.

**Attendance**

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Every additional three absences may entail a further one-step grade-reduction. 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.

**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.

### **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.

### **Academic Integrity**

Violations of academic integrity are an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to the University's Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than your own, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that use of online translation services is not permitted as a tool for generating work that you submit for course credit. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

### **Requirements and Grading**

Class Participation	15%
Class Blog and Dream Journal	10%
3 6-page papers	25% each
OR	
1 6-page paper	25%
1 12-page research paper	50%

*No late work will be accepted. Only two unexcused absences allowed.*

### **Grade distribution:**

A=90-100%; B+=85-89; B=80-84; C+=75-79; C=70-74; D=65-69; F=64 and below

## Schedule

- Week 1**      **Introduction: Unrest**  
1/20      Kafka, "A Dream" (1920)  
            Blanchot, "The Outside, the Night" & "Sleep, Night" from *The Space of Literature* (1955)
- 1/22      **The Logistics of Dreaming**  
            Aristotle, "On Dreams"  
            Walter Benjamin, "Breakfast Room" (1928)

### I. Interpretation and Dreams

- Week 2**      **The Romantic Dream: On Ramps to the Unconscious**  
1/27      Tieck, "Rune Mountain" from *Tales of the German Imagination*  
1/29      ***The Interpretation of Dreams*** (pp. xxiii-xxiii; 35-77)  
            Prefaces 1-8  
            I. The Scientific Literature Dealing With The Problems Of Dreams (A-D)
- Week 3**      ***The Interpretation of Dreams*** (pp. 121-159)  
2/3      II. The Method of Interpreting Dreams  
2/5      III. The Dream is a Fulfillment of a Wish
- Week 4**      ***The Interpretation of Dreams*** (pp. 195-259)  
2/10      IV. Distortions in Dreams  
2/12      V. The Material and Sources of Dreams (A-C)
- Week 5**      ***The Interpretation of Dreams*** (pp. 295-363; 493-512)  
2/17      VI. The Dream-Work (A-D)  
2/19      VI. The Dream-Work (I)

**2/20 11:59 p.m.      FIRST 6-PAGE PAPER DUE**

### II. Developments and Critiques

- Week 6**      **Institutional Edifices**  
2/24      Alfred Hitchcock, *Spellbound* (1945)  
2/26      Bertram Lewin, "Inferences from the Dream Screen," Freud, "A Metapsychological Supplement to the Theory of Dreams," Didier Anzieu, "The Dream as Film"
- Week 7**      **Surrealism**  
3/3      Luis Buñuel, *Un Chien Andalou* (1928)  
            André Breton, *Manifesto of Surrealism* (1924)  
3/5      Walter Benjamin, "Dream Kitsch" (1928)  
            Brigitte Doherty, "What Is There To Be Learned from Kitsch?"
- Week 8**      **Dystopian Dreams**

3/10 Satoshi Kan, *Paprika* (2006)  
3/12 J.P. Pontalis, "Dream as Object"

**Week 9 Spring Break**

**III. Skepticism Towards the Distinction Between the Waking and the Sleeping Mind**

**Week 10 Waking Life**

3/24 Richard Linklater, *Waking Life* (2001)  
3/26 René Descartes, *Meditations* (1641)

3/27 **11:59 p.m. SECOND 6-PAGE PAPER OR  
RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINE WITH ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

**Week 11 Delusions and Dreams**

3/31 Wilhelm Jensen, *Gradiva* (1902)  
4/2 Freud "Delusions and Dreams in Jensen's *Gradiva*"

**Week 12 Dreams and Drives**

4/7 David Lynch, *Mulholland Dr.* (2001)  
4/9 Freud, "Drives and Their Vicissitudes"

**Week 13 Dreamscapes**

4/14 Benjamin "Dream City and Dream House" from *The Arcades Project* (pp. 388-392)  
4/16 David Wojnarowicz, "In the Shadow of the American Dream" (2000)

**IV. The Future of the Unconscious**

**Week 14 Coleridge's Vision**

4/21 Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" (1797 / 1816)  
4/23 Jorge Luis Borges, "Coleridge's Dream" (1925)

**Week 15 The Future of the Unconscious**

4/28 TBD  
4/30 TBD

**5/8 11:59 P.M. FINAL 6-PAGE OR RESEARCH PAPER DUE**