

Instructor: Manuel Clemens
Academic Building, 15 Seminary Pl. (west wing)
Office: 4133
manuel.clemens@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 4-5pm

302: Introduction to Literary and Cultural Analysis
The Importance of Being Earnest – On our Irony

Spring 2017, Rutgers University
01:470:302:01
TTh6 4:30pm-5:50pm, Scott Hall 220

Course description

Irony is a widespread contemporary form of relating to the world by not being all too serious about what one says or does. As the essayist Christy Wampole puts it critically, irony is a “credit card you never have to pay back” because we enjoy its superfluous engagement with the world by dipping into various kinds of lifestyles, opinions, and fashions without experiencing any serious consequences. This course aims to analyze different forms of irony. Readings entail contemporary literary narratives discussing politics, art and the daily life in a humorous-ironic way: Stefanie Sargnagel *Binge Living*, Christian Kracht, 1979, Sven Regner, *Herr Lehmann*, Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*.

Prerequisites: Current enrollment in or prior completion of 01:470:232 or equivalent.

Please note 470:301 may be repeated for credit!

Books to be purchased at Rutgers University Bookstore:

Christian Kracht, 1979, ISBN-13: 978-3596185306
Sven Regner, *Herr Lehmann*, ISBN-13: 978-3442453306
Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*, ISBN-13: 978-3498039417

Sakai

All other readings available on course website on Sakai <https://sakai.rutgers.edu> under title “Introduction to Literary and Cultural Analysis”, subheading “Resources.”

Requirements

Students are required to write three 5-page essays in the course of the semester.

Homework, response papers

Final Grade

Quality of participation 20%

First Essay 20%

Second Essay 30%

Third Essay 30%

Grade distribution

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

Core Curriculum Learning Goals

The course satisfies the following Learning Goals of the Core Curriculum:

[AH] Arts and the Humanities

p: Analyze arts and/or literatures in themselves and in relation to specific histories, values, languages, cultures, and technologies

[WC] Writing and Communication

s-2: [WCr] Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revisions

t: [WCd] Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry

v: Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights

Departmental Policies

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.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Short version: Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.

Use of electronic translation programs (e.g. google translator) will be considered as plagiarism.

Longer version: Cheating on tests or plagiarizing materials in your papers deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on unacknowledged words or ideas that someone else originated. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. In this class we will take cheating very seriously. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be automatically referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and we will recommend penalties appropriate to the gravity of the infraction. The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>¹. I strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with this document, both for this class and for your other classes and future work. To help protect you, and future students, from plagiarism, we require all papers to be submitted through Turnitin.com.

Since what counts as plagiarism is not always clear, I quote the definition given in Rutgers' policy:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

¹ This web link was corrected on Sept. 13, 2015.

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other nontextual material from other sources without proper attribution.²

A SPECIAL NOTE: Students often assume that because information is available on the Web it is public information, does not need to be formally referenced, and can be used without attribution. This is a mistake. *All* information and ideas that you derive from other sources, whether written, spoken, or electronic, must be attributed to their original source. Such sources include not just written or electronic materials, but people with whom you may discuss your ideas, such as your roommate, friends, or family members. They deserve credit for their contributions too!

Schedule of Classes

Important: Assignments have to be completed before the class meeting indicated!

01/17: Introduction

Christie Wampole, „How to life without Irony“

Christie Wampole, “How to life without Irony (For Real, This Time)”

01/19: Stefanie Sargnagel, *Binge Living*

01/24: Christian Kracht, *1979*

01/26: Christian Kracht, *1979*

01/31: Christian Kracht, *1979*

02/02: Christian Kracht, *1979*

First Essay Due

02/07: Sven Regner, *Herr Lehmann*, p. 19-50

02/09: Sven Regner, *Herr Lehmann*, p. 50-83

02/14: Sven Regner, *Herr Lehmann*, p. 84-119

² <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/> Updated with the University's current language on July 13, 2012 and web link was corrected on Sept. 13, 2015. S. Lawrence.

02/16: Sven Regner, *Herr Lehmann*, p. 120- 146

02/21: Sven Regner, *Herr Lehmann*, p. 147-184

02/23: Sven Regner, *Herr Lehmann*, p. 185-216

02/28: Sven Regner, *Herr Lehmann*, p. 217-285

Second Essay due

03/02: Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*

03/07: Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*

03/09: Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*

Spring Break

03/21: Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*

03/23: Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*

03/28: Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*

03/30: Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*

04/04: Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*

04/06: Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*

04/11: Ben Lerner, *Abschied von Antocha*

04/13: Hipster. *Eine transatlantische Diskussion*

04/18: Hipster. *Eine transatlantische Diskussion*

04/20: Hipster. *Eine transatlantische Diskussion*

04/25: tba

04/27: tba

Final Essay due May 15th

