

Fall 2012, Rutgers University
German 16:470:670:01 [index 0117249] /
Comparative Literature 16:195:617:01 [index
0114692]
Wed. 4:30-7:10pm, GH 102 (172 College Ave.
seminar room, CAC)

Prof. Nicholas Rennie
Office hours Th 9:30am, & by appointment
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Forbidding Images: Picture and Word from Lessing to Adorno

The seminar examines the rivalry between text and image in German writing from the 18th to the 20th century, and consequences of this antagonism in current theory. We will read a series of writings which each register the fascination of the visual, yet attempt to defend against its influence in the name of a non-visual principle. A guiding concern will be the degree to which the intellectual tradition under study relates to an iconoclastic tendency (or a modern “prohibition” of images) in contemporary theory.

Graduate students in German will be expected to use the German-language sources in their term papers, and to highlight and clarify key German terms in their class presentations. I’ve ordered German editions of some of the main texts through the University bookstore (see below).

To buy German-language texts unavailable at the Rutgers University Bookstore, either order directly from a European online seller such as <http://www.buchhandel.de> or amazon.de, or order via the International Book Import Service (IBIS, <http://www.IBIService.com>). IBIS may have in stock what you need, in which case you should have it within a few days; otherwise they can order and ship it to you. Please think ahead about what texts you may wish to concentrate on in your work and allow time for the necessary books to be delivered by the library or store.

Recommended purchases:

- Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, *Laocoon: An Essay on the Limits of Painting and Poetry*, tr. Edward Allen McCormick (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1984) ISBN 9780801831393
- ---, *Laokoon, oder Über die Grenzen der Malerei und Poesie* (Stuttgart: Reclam, 1986) ISBN 9783150002711
- Immanuel Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment*, tr. Paul Guyer and Eric Matthews (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001) ISBN 9780521348928
- ---, *Kritik der Urteilskraft*, Hrsg. Wilhelm Weischedel (Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp, 1986) ISBN 9783518276570
- Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy and Other Writings (Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy)*, tr. Ronald Speirs (Cambridge [UK]: Cambridge University Press, 1999) ISBN 9780521639873
- ---, *Die Geburt der Tragödie. Oder: Griechenthum und Pessimismus* (Stuttgart: Reclam, 1986) ISBN 9783150071311
- Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, tr. James Strachey (New York: HarperCollins, 1998) ISBN 9780380010004
- ---, *Die Traumdeutung* (Frankfurt/Main: Fischer, 1991) ISBN 9783596104369

Requirements

Regularly-enrolled graduate students

- Weekly attendance

- One 20 to 25-minute presentation, in English, which may be the basis for the final paper, and which may focus on one or more of the day’s readings and/or introduce to the class work that you’re doing on word-image relations. To help me plan, please be sure to tell me by the prior class what your presentation’s focus will be.
- Final paper:
 - thesis statement, 1-paragraph summary, and 1-page reading of passage key to your argument due **Nov. 2**
 - 15-page final paper due **Dec. 17** (Times or Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, double-spaced).

Auditors

- Weekly attendance
- One presentation (see above)

Undergraduates

- Weekly attendance
- One presentation (see above)
- Three 5-page papers, due Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 17.

Grade

- Class presentation 25%
- Paper(s) 75%

Course Website

The website for this course is entitled “ 2012-09 Forbidding Images 16:470:670:01” and appears at <https://sakai.rutgers.edu>. It is available to all students registered in the course.

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.

Weekly Readings

You should obtain the following **bold-faced** titles, whether in German or English (see „recommended readings“ above); all other titles are or will be available for download from Sakai.

Be sure to read the bulleted readings for each week (those marked by a „•“). The following, indented titles marked by a „°“ may not be discussed, but are recommended in particular for those either presenting or writing on the texts assigned for the week.

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| Sept. 5 | Introduction | Oct. 3 | Kant |
| Sept. 12 | Lessing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kant, <i>Critique of the Power of Judgment</i>, 66-104. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• G.E. Lessing, <i>Laocoön</i>, Preface through chapter 7.• Mitchell, W. J. T. “What is an Image?” <i>New Literary History</i> 15 (1984): 503-37.• Sabine Gross, „Writing in Images: Introduction,“ <i>Monatshefte</i> 102.3 (2010): 277-84.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Martin Jay, “The Noblest of the Senses: Vision from Plato to Descartes,” chapter 1 in <i>Downcast Eyes: The Denigration of Vision in Twentieth-Century French Thought</i> (Berkeley: U of California P, 1994) 21-82.◦ Boehm 1995; Krieger 1992; Mitchell 1980. | | Oct. 10 | Kant |
| Sept. 19 | Lessing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kant, <i>Critique of the Power of Judgment</i>, 105-48.• Jean-François Lyotard, “Answering the Question: What Is Postmodernism?” tr. Régis Durand, in: Lyotard, <i>The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge</i> (Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1984) 71-82.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Belting 2001; Hertz 1985; Weiskel 1976. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• G.E. Lessing, <i>Laocoön</i>, chapter 8 to the end.• W.J.T. Mitchell, “Lessing’s Laocoon and the Politics of Genre,” <i>Iconology</i>, 95-115.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Brodsky 1993; Mücke 1993; Gustafson 1993; Wellbery 1993; Richter 1992; Jacobs 1987; Wellbery 1984. | | Oct. 17 | Hegel |
| Sept. 26 | Kant | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hegel, Aesthetics: <i>Lectures on Fine Art</i>, tr. T.M. Knox, vol. I (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975) 1-14, 69-90.• Arthur C. Danto, <i>After the End of Art: Contemporary Art and the Pale of History</i> (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1997) 3-39. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kant, “On the schematism of the pure concepts of the understanding,” <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>, ed. and tr. Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1998) 271-277.• Paul Ricoeur, “Image and Language in Psychoanalysis,” in: Smith, J.H., ed. <i>Psychoanalysis and Language</i>, vol. 3 of <i>Psychiatry and the Humanities</i> (New Haven: Yale UP, 1978) 293-324.• Kant, <i>Critique of the Power of Judgment</i>, 53-66. | | Oct. 24 | Marx |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marx, <i>The German Ideology</i>: Part I, tr. S. Ryazanskaya, in: <i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i>, ed. Robert C. Tucker (New York: Norton, 1978) 146-175.• Marx, excerpt from <i>Capital</i> on commodity fetishism, in: <i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i>, 319-23.• W.J.T. Mitchell, “The Rhetoric of Iconoclasm: Marxism, Ideology, and Fetishism,” in: <i>Iconology</i>, 160-208.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Raymond Williams, “Ideology,” in: <i>Marxism and Literature</i> (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1985) 55-71. | |
| | | Oct. 31 | Nietzsche |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nietzsche, <i>The Birth of Tragedy</i>. | |

- Gary Shapiro, „Aesthetics: Nietzsche contra Lessing,“ in: *Archaeologies of Vision: Foucault and Nietzsche on Seeing and Saying* (Chicago; London: University of Chicago Press, 2003) 69-89.
 - Nietzsche, “On Truth and Lie in their Ultramoral Sense,” *The Complete Works of Friedrich Nietzsche*, ed. Oscar Levy, vol. II, Early Greek Philosophy and Other Essays (New York: Russell & Russell: 1964) 171-192.
 - Rampley (2000); Nehamas (1985 [1999]); Kofman (1983 [1993]); de Man (1979; pp. 79-118).

Due Nov. 2: thesis statement, 1-paragraph summary, and 1-page reading of passage key to the argument for your final paper
Please submit all of this within a single PDF or MS Word document via the Sakai „Assignments“ link.

Nov. 7

Freud

- Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, tr. James Strachey, 128-154 [Chapter 2, “The Method of Interpreting Dreams: An Analysis of a Specimen Dream”]; 167-195 [Chapter 4, “Distortion in Dreams”]; 311-385 [Chapter 6, “The Dream-Work,” (A), (B), (C), (D)].
 - Kittler 1990; Derrida 1978.

Nov. 14

Freud

- “Creative Writers and Day-Dreaming”; “The Moses of Michelangelo”; “The Head of Medusa”
 - Jay 1994 (329-370); Lacan 1998.

Nov. 28

Benjamin

- Benjamin, *The Origin of German Tragic Drama*, tr. John Osborne (London and New York: Verso, 1998) 159-189.

Dec. 17: Final paper due (15 pages, Times or Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, double-spaced)
Please submit your paper as a single PDF or MS Word document via the Sakai „Assignments“ link.

- Rainer Nägele, *Theater, Theory, Speculation: Walter Benjamin and the Scenes of Modernity* (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins UP, 1991) ix-27.

Dec. 5

Benjamin

- Benjamin, “On Some Motifs in Baudelaire,” *Illuminations*, tr. Harry Zohn (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1955) 155-200.
- Benjamin, “On the Concept of History,“ in: *Selected Writings*. Ed. Marcus Paul Bullock, et al. (Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press, 1996) 389-97.
 - Koepnick, Lutz. "Benjamin in the Age of New Media." *A Companion to the Works of Walter Benjamin*. Ed. Rolf J. Goebel. Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2009. 112-129.
 - Cadava, Eduardo, *Words of Light: Theses on the Photography of History* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1997)
 - Balázs, Béla, chapter “Visible Man,“ in: *Early Film Theory: Visible Man and the Spirit of Film*. Ed. Erica Carter. New York: Berghahn Books, 2010.

Dec. 12

Adorno

- Adorno, “Art Beauty: Apparition, Spiritualization, Intuitability” [Das Kunstschöne: “apparition”, Vergeistigung, Anschaulichkeit]; “Enigmaticalness, Truth Content, Metaphysics” [Rätselcharakter, Wahrheitsgehalt, Metaphysik], in: *Aesthetic Theory*, tr. Robert Hullot-Kentor (Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1997) 78-100, 118-136.
 - Jay (1984), Bohrer (1981)