

Instructor

Prof. Susanne Luedemann

Office hours Tuesdays, 3:00 to 4:00 pm, and by appointment.

15 Seminary Place, 4th Floor, room 4128

College Avenue Campus

Tel. (848) 932-7781 (main office)

susanne.luedemann@rutgers.edu

Course Title: Figures of Exile (3 credits)

01:470: 392:01; index 15243

Spring 2017

(Cross listed with 01: 195:397:02)

Days & times: TTh4 1:10pm–2:30pm

Course location: 15 Seminary Pl. (west wing), Academic Building 4050.

Course Description

"To uproot oneself is the greatest of virtues, to collaborate in the uprooting of others is the most terrible of crimes." German writer Peter Handke quotes this phrase by Simone Weill in a text called "Die Lehre der Sainte-Victoire" ("The Teaching of Sainte-Victoire"). It shows exile as a Janus-faced figure, depending on whether one is the subject or the object of deracination. The metaphor of deracination/uprooting itself, however, presupposes a concept of man that conceives him as a plant-like being, growing and thriving only in his native soil. Franz Kafka 'deracinates' this metaphor itself in a well known simile which says that "we are like tree trunks in the snow. Apparently, they lie smoothly and a little push should be enough to set them rolling. No, it can't be done, for they are firmly wedded to the ground. But see, even that is only apparently so."

In this course, we will read literary and theoretical texts on exile and 'exiled' writing. We will also discuss the differences between exiles, refugees, expatriats, émigrées, and other (political and literary) figures of homelessness. Readings will include texts by Hannah Arendt, Edward Said, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Joseph Conrad, Thomas Mann, Peter Handke, James Baldwin, Imre Kertesz, Theodor W. Adorno, and others.

Taught in English

FINAL GRADE

Class participation	30%
Take-home exam 1 (3-5 pp.)	20%
Take-home exam 2 (6-8 pp.)	50%

Class participation includes regular preparation and attendance, participation in discussions, and a 10 to 15 minutes presentation on one of the texts/authors we will read.

The take-home exams consist in one shorter and one longer essay on one of the texts we will read, or on a topic referring to several texts (f. ex. "On the differences between exile and migration according to authors x and y"). Students should choose their topics independently, but discuss them with me IN TIME; i. e. for the first essay no later than Feb. 21, for the second essay no later than April 11 during my office hours. Presentations can but must not be given on the author/topic you want to write about. The second essay can build on the first one, but topics should not be altogether identical.

Grade distribution

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

Required texts, available at...

Conrad, Joseph: Amy Foster, Create Space Independent Publishing Platform (February 29, 2012), **ISBN-10:** 1470157535, **ISBN-13:** 978-1470157531

Seghers, Anna: Transit, NYRB Classics; Main edition (May 7, 2013), **ISBN-10:** 1590176251, **ISBN-13:** 978-1590176252

Flusser, Villém: The Freedom of the Migrant: Objections to Nationalism, University of Illinois Press; 1st Edition edition (May 1, 2013), **ISBN-10:** 0252079035, **ISBN-13:** 978-0252079030.

All other texts are provided as pdfs on the course Sakai Site!

Other information you wish to provide (for instance regarding any website associated with the course)

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.

- 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.

- Class meetings and assignments for the semester

<Students must receive at the beginning of the semester a list of the readings and other assignments for each of the 14 weeks. Please note that every class meets 42, 28, or 14 times during the semester, depending on whether it meets three times, twice or once each week. The university calendar appears at <http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/academic.htm.>>

Jan. 17	Introduction
Jan. 19 Jan. 24 Jan. 26	Poetry and reflections from/on exile by Bertolt Brecht, Ingeborg Bachmann, Rose Ausländer, Friedrich Hölderlin, Mahmoud Darwish, Breyten Breytenbach, Theodor W. Adorno, Franz Kafka, and Simone Weill [pdf, Sakai]
Jan. 31 Feb. 2 Feb. 7	Theoretical explorations: Hannah Arendt, We refugees / The End of the Nation State and the Rights of Man / The Jew as Pariah [pdf, Sakai] Giorgio Agamben, Beyond Human Rights [pdf, Sakai]
Feb. 9 Feb. 14 Feb. 16	Edward Said, Reflections on Exile / Between Worlds [pdf, Sakai] Joseph Conrad, Amy Foster, Create Space Independent Publishing Platform (February 29, 2012) Joseph Conrad, Poland Revisited [pdf, Sakai]
Feb. 21 Feb. 23	Imre Kertész, Language in Exile [pdf, Sakai] Paul Celan, Gespräch im Gebirg / Conversation in the Mountains [pdf, Sakai]

Feb. 28	
Mar. 2 Mar. 7 Mar. 9	Chapter "Speaking and Writing" from: Robinson, Marc (ed.): Altogether Elsewhere. Writers on Exile, Faber & Faber, Inc. 1994, pp. 211-272 [pdf, Sakai] Fr March 3rd: first take-home due!
	[Spring Break!]
Mar. 21 Mar. 23 Mar. 28	Essays from: Vilém Flusser, The Freedom of the Migrant. Objections to Nationalism, University of Illinois Press; 1st Edition edition (May 1, 2013) [Film: Georges Perec, Récits d'Ellis Island]
Mar. 30	/no class!/
Apr. 4 Apr. 6 Apr. 11 Apr. 13	Anna Seghers, Transit, NYRB Classics; Main edition (May 7, 2013)
Apr. 18	/no class!/
Apr. 25 Apr. 27	Open for addenda / presentation and discussion of topics for essays
	[Wed. May 10th: second take-home due. Please submit via email to: s.luedemann@lmu.de]

The classes on 03/30 and 04/18 will be replaced by a field trip to the Ellis Island Museum of Immigration! (date t. b. a.).