**Cult 502**

**Epistemological Foundations of Cultural Analysis**

**Fall 2021**

**Instructor**:Hülya Adak (hadak@sabanciuniv.edu)

**Class time**:Thursdays 16.40-19.30 (online&hybrid)

**Office hours**:By appointment

**Course Description:**

With its focus on the epistemological foundations of cultural analysis, this course analyzes the construction of knowledge, on the one hand, by reviewing key landmarks in the history of methodology in the social sciences/humanities, and on the other hand, by introducing recent critical approaches to and methodologies of cultural analysis. The second section of the course focuses on themes that represent cutting-edge scholarship in cultural and literary theory, and may change each year the course is offered. The course will also prepare the participants for the applied course in methodology, CULT 503 (Cultural Analysis Workshop), the sequel (to be taught in Spring 2022) to this course.

**Course Requirements:**

This is an interactive course, and students are expected to come to class having done the readings. Attendance is required and participation in class discussions will play a major role in grading and in the success of the course. A total of 2 presentations will be required from students. Students will be asked to contribute to class discussions on a regular basis. Late essays will not be accepted. All readings will be uploaded to SU course.

**Evaluation:**

Attendance, participation, presentations. 30%

Two take-home essays (10-12 pp) 70% (35% each)

**Course Schedule**

**September 30 Introduction**

**October 7 & 14**

**Semiotics/Structuralism**

Film: *Killing Us Softly 3* (Dir. **Sut Jhally)**, 2000, 34 min.

Jonathan Culler, “Semiotics: The Saussurian Legacy,” in *Ferdinand de Saussure,* Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 1986, pp. 105-150.

Roland Barthes, “Myth Today” in *Mythologies. T*rans. Annette Lavers,New York: The Noonday Press, 1972, pp. 109-159.

Roland Barthes, “Wine and Milk” in *Mythologies,* Trans. Annette Lavers,The Noonday Press, New York, 1972, pp. 58-62.

**October 21 Textuality, Representation, Interpretation**

W. J. T. Mitchell, “Representation,” in *Critical Terms for Literary Study*. Frank Lentricchia & Thomas McLaughlin, eds., Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press, 1995, pp. 11-22.

From Jonathan Culler, *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997: “What is Literature and Does it Matter?” pp. 18-42 & “Literature and Cultural Studies” pp. 43-54.

Mikhail Bakhtin, “Heteroglossia in the Novel,” in *The Dialogic Imagination*, ed. M. Holquist, trans. C. Emerson and M. Holquist, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1981, pp. 301-331.

***October 28 no class***

**November 4 Gendering & Queering Life Narratives**

Sidonie Smith & Julia Watson. “Introduction: Situating Subjectivity in Women’s Autobiographical Practices.” In *Women, Autobiography, Theory: A Reader.* The University of Wisconsin Press, 1998. Pp. 3-55.

Kimberle Crenshaw. “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence against Women of Color.”

Judith Halberstam. “Queer Temporality and Postmodern Geographies.” In *Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives.* New York and London: New York University Press, 2005. Pp. 1-21.

Recommended reading: Toni Morrison. *Beloved*. Vintage, 2004 (1987).

**November 11 Performativity and Gender**

Louis Althusser. Excerpt from “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses: Notes towards an Investigation,” in *Lenin and Philosophy, and Other Essays*. New York, NY: Monthly Review Press, 1971. pp. 170-186.

Judith Butler. “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory,” *Theatre Journal* 40(4) (1988): 519-531.

J.L. Austin. Lectures 1-5 in *How to Do Things with Words*. London: Oxford University Press, 1962. pp. 1-66.

**November 18 Archives and Repertoires**

Diana Taylor. “Acts of Transfer,” in *The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003. pp. 1-52.

K.J. Rawson. “Archive,” *Transgender Studies Quarterly* 1 (1&2) (2014): 24-26.

Andre Lepecki. “The Body as Archive: Will to Re-Enact and the Afterlives of Dances,” *Dance Research Journal* 42(2) (2010): 28-48.

Martin F. Manalansan IV, “The ‘Stuff’ of Archives: Mess, Migration, and Queer Lives,” *Radical History Review* 120 (2014): 94-107.

**November 25 Thematic Focus: Exile/Diaspora/Migration**

Edward Said. “Reflections on Exile.” In *Reflections on Exile and Other Essays.* Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2000. Pp. 173-186.

Marianne Hirsch & Leo Spitzer. “What’s wrong with this picture?: Archival photographs in contemporary narratives,” *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*,Volume 5 (2006), Issue 2, pp. 229-252.

Carlos Rojas. “Language, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Literary Taxonomy: Ng Kim Chew and Mahua Literature,” *PMLA*, Vol. 131, No. 5, October 2016, pp. 1316-1327.

**December 2 Trauma Studies**

***\*Take-home essay I questions will be distributed***

Miklos Nyiszli. *Auschwitz: A Doctor’s Eyewitness Account*. Trans. Tibere Kremer & Richard Seaver. London: Penguin Books, 2012.

Dominick LaCapra. “Writing History, Writing Trauma.” In *Writing History, Writing Trauma*. Baltimore & London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001. Pp. 1-42.

Giorgio Agamben. “The Witness” & “The Muselmann.” In *Remnants of Auschwitz: The Witness and the Archive*. New York: Zone Books, 1999, pp. 15-40 & pp. 41-86.

**December 9 Environmental Trauma and Gender: Ecofeminist Reflections**

**(Guest Lecturer: Deniz İbrişim Gündoğan)**

Barbara T. Gates, “A Root of Ecofeminism: Ecoféminisme,” In *Ecofeminist Literary Criticism.* Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1998. Pp. 15-23.

Greta Gaard & Patrick D. Murphy, “Introduction,” In *Ecofeminist Literary Criticism.* Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1998. Pp. 1-13.

Kaplan, E. Ann, “Is Climate-Related Pre-Traumatic Stress Syndrome a Real Condition?" *American Imago* 77, no. 1 (2020): 81-104. [doi:10.1353/aim.2020.0004](http://doi.org/10.1353/aim.2020.0004).

Stef Craps, “Climate Trauma,” In *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Trauma.* Colin Davis & Hanna Meretoja, eds., London and New York, 2020. Pp. 275-285.

Marybeth Holleman, “How to Grieve a Glacier,” ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment, Volume 25, Issue 2, Spring 2018, 441–442. <https://doi.org/10.1093/isle/isy046>

Top of Form

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**Recommended Readings:**

Craps, Stef, et al. “Memory Studies and the Anthropocene: A Roundtable.” *Memory Studies*, vol. 11, no. 4, Oct. 2018, pp. 498–515, doi:[10.1177/1750698017731068](https://doi.org/10.1177/1750698017731068). (Read Introduction and “Species extinction, multidirectional eco-memory, and advocacy by Rosanne Kennedy)

Ashlee Cunsolo and Neville R. Ellis. “Ecological grief as a mental health response to climate change-related loss,” *Nature Climate Change*, Vol 8, APRIL 2018, 275–28. www.nature.com/natureclimatechange.

***December 15******Wednesday: Take-home essay I due (10-12 pp)***

**December 16 Genre: Structure and Politics**

Art Spiegelmann. *Maus: A Survivor’s Tale I & II*. New York: Pantheon, 1973.

Marianne Hirsch. “The Generation of Postmemory.” In *Poetics Today*. 29: 1, Duke University Press, Spring 2008.

Christopher Ortiz. “The Politics of Genre in Carmen Martin Gaitez’ *Back Room,”* In Autobiography & Postmodernism*,* Kathleen Ashley, Leigh Gilmore, Gerald Peters (eds.) Amherst: The University of Massacusetts Press, 1994.

**December 23 Testimony/Historiography/Genocide/Human Rights**

***\*Take home essay II questions will be distributed***

Karnig Panian. *Goodbye, Antoura: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide*.California: Stanford University Press, 2015. Pp. 1-97.

Marc Nichanian. “Zabel Esayan: The End of Testimony and the Catastrophic Turnabout,” In Writers of Disaster: Armenian Literature in the Twentieth Century. Princeton and London: Gomidas Institute, 2002. Pp. 188-242.

Recommended reading: Kay Schaffer & Sidonie Smith. “Conjunctions: Life Narratives in the Field of Human Rights.” In *Human Rights & Narrated Lives: The Ethics of Recognition*. Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 13-33.

***December 30***

*Film*: “Patience: After Sebald.” Grant Gee, 2012.

W.G. Sebald. *The Emigrants.* New Directions, 1992, pp. 1-63.

Philip Schlesinger, “W.G. Sebald and the Condition of Exile.” *Theory, Culture & Society* 21(2): 43-67, 2004.

**\*Deadline: January 16, 2022!!! Take-home essay II due (10-12 pp)**