



## ELECTIVE COURSES OFFERED IN THE FALL SEMESTER OF 2019-20

### ENG 506 DEATH IN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY

**Instructor: Tziovanis Georgakis**

The aim of the course is to investigate the concept of death, as it has been challenged and further developed by certain influential thinkers from Plato to Maurice Blanchot, and its relation to specific works of world literature. In particular, the course is divided in four parts. The first part grounds the investigation by examining classical views of death by Plato and Epicurus and the way in which the practice of preparing for death relates to the search for truth and the obtainment of knowledge. The second part of the course considers the Christian perspective on death as it is preached by St. Paul in the mystery of the Second coming, an apocalyptic moment when death becomes the last enemy to be defeated and the dead are raised and inherit the Kingdom of God. The Christian view of death will be juxtaposed with Friedrich Nietzsche's critique of the Christian doctrine which claims that death is misrepresented by the Christian priests as the ultimate criterion of life and becomes the tool for tyranny, irrationality, and immorality. The Christian and anti-Christian Nietzschean views on death will be further explored by close readings of Leo Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* and Jose Saramago's *Death at Intervals* and the manner in which these two literary pieces envision human freedom, rationality, and morality. The third part of the course considers an existential standpoint of death and its relation to metaphysical rebellion. Martin Heidegger's notion of death as Dasein's possibility for Being-a-Whole, and, thus absolutely and unconditionally free, will be associated with Albert Camus' figure of the rebel who is willing to die in order to assert the conditions of his existence and practice that which he preaches, 'All of Nothing.' The figure of the metaphysical rebel will be also studied in relation to Julia Kristeva's idea of beheading and Richard Wright's novel *Native Son*, which entails a murderous act as a case of metaphysical rebellion. The final part of the course examines Maurice Blanchot's *The Writing of the Disaster* in which major disasters such as the Holocaust raise a number of questions related to death and termination such as the process of writing itself and its liquidation, the production of knowledge and the flight of thought, the infinite and its interruption, and the death of Oneself in terms of the death of the Other. Finally, Blanchot's text will be studied in relation to a piece of Holocaust literature by Tadeusz Borowski entitled *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*.

### ENG 530 LOVE IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

**Instructor: Evi Haggipavlu**

The purpose of this course is to explore the theme of Love in the Literature, Cinema and Thought of the 20<sup>th</sup> century through close readings of select Literary, Cinematic and

Theoretical works from around the world that have been inspired by Love, thematize Love and/or stand as affirmations of Love. To that end, we shall immerse ourselves in the amorously charged worlds opened up in the films and readings under study and pay heed to the affective entanglements sketched out in these works so as to think on the Existential, Cultural, Ethical and Political meaning(s) and significance of Love in and for the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. And Love, for the purposes of this course, is to be thought of primarily as (an) affect that is inherently paradoxical, irrational, temporal, elusive, ambivalent, differential, contradictory and confounding, but also, as potentially one of the most profound ways of being in the world and with an/other or others. Our approach is interdisciplinary bringing together Thinkers, Film-makers, Artists and their works, from a variety of areas such as Classical Studies, Feminist Theory, Queer Theory, Philosophy, Cultural Studies, Film, Literature and the Arts.

### **ENG 538 WOMEN WRITERS AND FANTASY**

**Instructor: Maria Margaroni**

This course will focus on the fiction of four major feminist writers who have chosen to work within different fantastic genres (i.e. the fairy-tale, utopian and dystopian fiction, magic realism). The aim is to see how these writers employ the mode of fantasy in their works and to what effect. Drawing on the thought of different theorists of literary fantasy, students will investigate the conventions and subversive potential of this literary mode, the relation between gender and genre as well as questions relating to the exclusive nature of prevailing definitions of the “real”, the unconscious formation of the subject, and the interplay in the space of literature among language, desire and ideology. An important thematic thread to be pursued in class discussions is the traditional connection between literary fantasy and escapism, a connection the politics of which post-1960s writers of fantasy seek to expose and undermine.

### **ENG 539 KEY ISSUES IN AESTHETICS**

**Instructor: Evy Varsamopoulou**

This course will introduce students to certain key issues in the history of the modern discourse of philosophical aesthetics through the study of theoretical, literary and artistic works. We will commence with a brief overview of significant eighteenth and nineteenth-century European texts, taking into consideration the canonical classical works to which they refer, and then focus on contemporary debates, with primary attention given to Anglophone literature. The programme of study falls into three periods of approximately equal length. In the first period we read a selection of texts by Shaftesbury, Addison, Burke, and Kant alongside works of visual art, poetry and Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. In the second period we concentrate on crucial characteristics of avant-garde modernist aesthetics: originality, shock-value, simultaneity and the quest for a universal language (myth, abstraction), with examples drawn from literature, music and dance. Finally, in the last part of the course we will focus on post WWII debates on the ethics of representation,

examining these primarily through selected extracts from literary works.

### **ENG 540 TOPICS IN SOCIOLINGUISTICS**

**Instructor: Constantina Fotiou**

This course offers an introduction to research conducted from a range of sociolinguistic perspectives and a guide to methods of data collection and analysis. Students will examine some of the foundational as well as more innovative work done in the quantitative (variationist) and qualitative paradigms and acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to design and conduct research which is ethical and methodologically sound. Among others, the following topics will be covered: ethical and empowering research, finding a topic, research design, sampling techniques, transcription and coding, data analysis, writing up your research, corpora, interviews and spontaneous speech as sources of data, studying perceptions and attitudes, studying language, gender and sexuality, ethnographic approaches in sociolinguistics and discourse analysis.

### **ENG 561 RESEARCH METHODS IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

**Instructor: Sviatlana Karpava**

This course deals with research methodology and design in the second language research field. It aims to familiarize students with key concepts from a variety of SLA perspectives and theories, to provide better understanding of different types of research via data based questions, discussion and activities. The students will be acquainted with the basic issues, problems and solutions involved in conducting second language research in both second and foreign language settings, child and adult second language, bilingual/multilingual language learning. A wide range of topics is going to be covered; such as research design, issues related to primary/secondary, quantitative/qualitative data collection and analysis as well as action/classroom research. Students will also design and conduct their own research project.

### **ENG 566 ISSUES IN BIOLINGUISTICS**

**Instructor: Kleanthes Grohmann**

*From theoretical linguistics to biolinguistics* might be an appropriate sub-title for this course, which will take us straight into the more biologically oriented area of cognitive science with a fair bit of philosophy of language, Cartesian philosophy and the mind/brain distinction, and the like all the way up to the 21st century reappraisals of Darwin's evolutionary theory, evo-devo, and genetics—and in the midst of it all: language/grammar and generative approaches to it. The true focus of the course is thus an introduction to the challenge posed by interdisciplinarity: How can findings of theoretical linguistics be integrated with the rest of cognitive science—and indeed with biology, or the natural sciences at large? This course

addresses all areas of language analysis with a focus on experimental research in the areas of developmental and clinical language study (psycho- and neurolinguistics).

### **ENG 575 THEATRE TRANSLATION**

**Instructor: Vasso Giannakopoulou**

This course constitutes an introduction to the translation of dramatic texts. Although translation has been an indispensable part for the staging of plays across languages and cultures as early as classical Rome, the theoretical study of Theatre Translation has had a belated appearance in the 1980s. Recently, though, it has been attracting strong attention and vigorous debates. The aim of this course is to present a historic overview of drama and its translation, introduce basic theoretical approaches to the translation of dramatic texts for the page or the stage, as well as translation strategies and techniques to deal with particular features of drama translation, both through theoretical texts and case-studies from various genres, periods, and traditions.

### **ENG 587 RESEARCH METHODS AND TOOLS FOR TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS**

**Instructor: Konstantinos Kritsis**

Being proficient in knowledge and skills related to the processes and products of research constitutes an essential qualification of translators and interpreters allowing them not only to investigate specific topics of interest for professional and/or academic purposes, but also to evaluate current developments in their field. To that end, this course seeks to introduce students to key concepts, considerations, instrumentations, and methodological approaches and procedures pertinent to the selection, collection, and analysis of information for research purposes, focusing in particular on topics related to Translation and/or Interpreting Studies.

### **ENG 593 PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC SERVICE/COMMUNITY INTERPRETING**

**Instructor: Konstantinos Kritsis**

The critical rise of inter- and intracontinental migration and mobility has led to an increasing need not only for interpreters, but also for the provision of their services in an ever broadening and diversifying range of non-conference settings. Although these radical changes of the interpreting landscape have opened up new employment opportunities for language mediation professionals, they have also brought forward a range of new challenges. Against this background, this course straddles theory and practice with the aim to familiarise students with key aspects of interpreting for public service/community purposes, sensitise them to the role(s) and responsibilities of interpreters in intra-social interactions, and develop their skills and competencies for interpreting between English and Greek in different modes.

## **ENG 594 TEXT LINGUISTICS**

**Instructor: Georgios Floros**

The course is intended to examine language in its *textual* dimension, by explaining the main structural and functional features of texts as communicative units and by introducing the essential *macro-structural* parameters according to which texts can be analyzed and classified. It will thus be based upon a multifaceted understanding of Text Linguistics as discourse analysis, as 'transphrastic grammar' and as functional-communicative study of language. The ultimate aim is to familiarize students with texts as autonomous units of meaning with an internal structure. An additional aim is to show how texts can be classified into different types according to their intended function and usage. On the basis of authentic texts to be studied in class, the course will discuss various theoretical approaches to the analysis of texts, from the early attempts of the 60s through to more elaborate approaches in the 80s and 90s, as well as possible application fields of text linguistic analysis.