

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Modern and Contemporary Literature : Literature and Other Visual Media (2AN1095)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises (*)	Séminaire: 2 ph	oral: 30 min	10
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante:

Michael Rössli

Objectifs:

Development of a sense for what happens when we read a text, and how reading as such changes over time and across a variety of media.

Contenu:

As its title suggests, this seminar adopts a defamiliarising angle on the medium of the literary text. Literature is usually opposed to visual media, despite the fact that it consists of marks on a white page, and therefore is based on visual support itself. Similarly, photographic images appear to be static surfaces incapable of narrating linear narratives, while filmic and verbal productions involve a temporal component of reading. By putting such traditional views into question and by looking for similarities and interactions in the reading processes ascribed to the media of literature, photography and film, this seminar foregrounds the numerous unconscious mechanisms at work in reading in a wider sense. The goal of this class is to trace a number of seminal British and American 20th-century texts that openly deal with questions of visuality. By reading these texts against theoretical essays as well as photographic and filmic texts that appeared at approximately the same time, the students will become aware of the cultural and historical nature of reading and its various mechanisms.

Issues such as medium potential, the nature and use of realism, collaborations between different media, authority and narrative closure will be examined through primary sources like Agee and Evans' photojournalistic work *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, a number of short stories, extracts from novels like DeLillo's *White Noise* or Banville's *The Sea*, Antonioni's film *Blowup*, as well as photographs by Cindy Sherman and Duane Michals. These readings will be brought into dialogue with essays by theorists Roland Barthes, Susan Sonntag, John Berger and others.

Forme de l'évaluation:

Regular class attendance and doing the required reading (basic conditions for evaluation)

- Two 5-7 page papers (each 35% of the final result)
- A 10-minute in-class presentation (30% of the final result)
- Rattrapage: If the final result should not be satisfactory (4.00 or above), a third paper on a different topic can be handed in after the end of the seminar.

Documentation:

All required reading will be available on Claroline or can be ordered after the beginning of the seminar.

(*) Cette matière est combinée avec d'autres matières pour l'évaluation