

GISELA BRINKER-GABLER
Spring 2008
LT 1506
1:15 – 4:15

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BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

COLI480Y/COLI535Y/ENG450Q/606N

APPROACHES TO MODERNISM/MODERNITY

An examination of 19th/20th century art, literature, and theory. With a focus on "century cities" – Paris, London, Vienna, Berlin, New York, Mahagony, the seminar will explore urban spaces and Modernist cultural practices. Selections from Nietzsche, Simmel, Benjamin, Baudelaire, G. Stein, Hofmannsthal, Musil, Andreas-Salome, Th. Mann, Rilke, Worringer, Kandinsky, Benn, Woolf, Kafka, Keun, Brecht. There will be special attention to relations between visual and verbal modernism, literature and the arts, gender and modernism, modernism/eurocentrism, modernism/postmodernism.

Format: Seminar, lectures and discussion.

Requirements: Regular attendance and participation in the seminar discussions. Undergraduates: two short papers and final take-home examination; Graduates: in-class presentation and final research paper (Abstract due 4/15).

Syllabus

JAN 29	INTRODUCTION
FEB 5	<i>MODERNITE I - PARIS</i> BAUDELAIRE, <i>THE PAINTER OF MODERN LIFE</i> BENJAMIN, <i>SOME MOTIVS IN BAUDELAIRE</i>
FEB 12	<i>MODERNITE II - PARIS</i> SIMMEL, <i>METROPOLIS AND MENTAL LIFE</i> RILKE, <i>MALTE LAURIDS BRIGGE</i>

- FEB 19 VENICE, CITY OF DESTRUCTION AND TRANSFIGURATION -
THOMAS MANN: *DEATH IN VENICE*
VISCONTI'S *DEATH IN VENICE* (MOVIE)
- FEB 26 VIENNA – THE CRISIS OF SEXES
KOKOSCHKA, *MURDER, HOPE OF WOMAN*
MODERNISM AND MYTH: HOFMANNSTHAL, *ELEKTRA*
- MAR 4 *CRISIS OF LANGUAGE/DISTURBANCE OF VISION*
HOFMANNSTHAL, *THE LORD CHANDOS LETTER*
MUSIL, *TONKA*, STEIN, *MELANCTHA*, ANDREAS-SALOME,
FENITSCHKA
- MAR 11 BERLIN: WORRINGER, ABSTRACTION AND EMPATHY;
MONOLOGUE AND MONTAGE:
BENN: *MORGUE, THE ISLAND*
- MAR 18 MUNICH: TOWARDS ABSTRACTION (VIDEO)
KANDINSKY: *ON THE SPIRITUAL OF ART*
STEVENS, *THE BLUE GUITAR*
- MAR 25 SPRING BREAK
- APR 1 LONDON: VIRGINIA WOOLF, *MRS. DALLOWAY*
MODERNISM/EUROCENTRISM
- APR 8 PRAG: KAFKA, *THE TRIAL*
POST-STRUCTURALISM THROUGH MODERNISM
ADORNO, DERRIDA
- APR 15 *FILM, MONTAGE, AND EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE CITY*
MOSKAU: VERTOV, *THE MAN WITH THE CAMERA*
RUTTMANN: *BERLIN: SYMPHONY OF A CITY*
(Abstract due)
- APR 22 BERLIN: WOMEN IN THE CITY
IRMGARD KEUN, *THE ARTIFICIAL SILK GIRL*
- APR 29 *THE CITY OF DREAMS, THE CITY OF HORROR:*
BRECHT: *MAHAGONNY*
- MAY 6 RESEARCH PAPER

Presentations

2/05 *On Modernite I*

Baudelaire, *Painter of Modern Life*

2/12 *On Modernite II*

Simmel, *Metropolis and Mental Life*

Donahue (*Reserve*), *Fear and Fascination in the Big City* (Simmel, Rilke)

9/20 *On Thomas Mann*

Death in Venice

Gronicka, "Myth Plus Psychology" (in: Mann, *Death in Venice*)

Dierks, "[Nietzsche's *Birth of Tragedy* and Mann's *Death in Venice*]" (in: *ibid.*)

Visconti's "*Death in Venice*"

Galerstein, "Images of Decadence in Visconti's *Death in Venice*,"

Literature/Film Quarterly 1985; 13(1): 29-34.

2/26 *On Kokoschka and Hofmannsthal*

Claude Cernuschi, "Kokoschka and Freud"

Peter Nicholls: "Sexuality and Structure"

Donahue, "The Solution to Silence" (Chandos Letter)

Hofmannsthal, *Elektra* (Shelly Jansen)

3/4 *Musil, Stein, Andreas-Salome*

Judith Ryan, "Each One As She May: Melanctha, Tonka, Nadja "

Marilyn Gaddis Rose, "Gertrude Stein and Cubist Narrative"

Gisela Brinker-Gabler, "Rewriting the Human" (Andreas-Salome)

3/18 *Worringer and Benn*

Waite, "Worringer's Abstraction and Empathy"

Donahue, "Wilhelm Worringer. Abstraction as Style"

Donahue, "Ecstatic Montage" (Benn)

Hohendahl, The Loss of Reality (Benn)

4/01 *On Kandinsky and Stevens*

Kandinsky, *On the Spiritual and Art*

Stevens, *The Blue Guitar [Brendan Mahoney]*

4/08 *On Virginia Woolf*

Levenback, "Life and Death. Memory and Denial in Postwar London"

Modernism and Eurocentrism [Tamkin Hussain]

On Kafka

4/15 Adorno, "Franz Kafka"

Derrida, "Before the Law"

4/22 *On Film Montage and Keun's Artificial Silk Girl*

Strathausen, "Uncanny Spaces: the City in Ruttmann and Vertov"

Von Ankum, "Gendered Urban Spaces: Keun's *Artificial Silk Girl*"

Virginia Woolf, "Street Haunting"

4/29 *On Brecht/ Weill, Mahagonny*

Giles, "Materialism and Modernity in Mahagonny"

Trubert, "Mahagonny: A Living Mask"

Bibliography

Friedrich Nietzsche, selections (copies provided)

Charles Baudelaire, *The Painter of Modern Life*

Walter Benjamin, "Some Motifs in Baudelaire." In: *Illuminations*

Oscar Wilde, "Decay of Lying" (In: *Intentions*, download at Amazon.com)

Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life" (*electronic reserve*)

Rainer Maria Rilke, *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge*

Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*

Hugo von Hofmannsthal, "The Letter of Lord Chandos" (*electronic reserve*)

Hugo von Hofmannsthal, *Elektra*

Robert Musil, "Tonka" (*Five Women, electronic reserve*)

Gertrude Stein, "Melanctha" (*Three Lives*)

Lou Andreas-Salome, "Fenitschka" (*electronic reserve*)

Wilhelm Worringer, *Abstraction and Empathy*

Gottfried Benn, selection of Poetry, "The Conquest" (copies provided)

Wassily Kandinsky, *On the Spiritual of Art*

Wallace Stevens, *The Blue Guitar*

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Franz Kafka, *The Trial*

Irmgard Keun, *The Artificial Silk Girl*

Bertold Brecht, *Mahagonny*

On Reserve (see attached lists)

Further Recommendations

Astradur Eysteinnsson: *The Concept of Modernism*. Ithaca, London: Cornell UP 2000

David Frisby, *Fragments of Modernity*. Oxford: Polity Press 1986

Rita Felski, *The Gender of Modernity* ["Masking Masculinity. The Feminization of Writing"]. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP, 1995

Neil A. Donahue, "Fear and Fascination in the Big City: Rainer Maria Rilke's Use of Georg Simmel in *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge* (1910)," in: *Forms of Disruption*, loc.cit., 75-100.

Gronicka, "Myth Plus Psychology," in: Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*, tr. and edited by Clayton Koelb. New York: The Norton and Comp., 1994

Dierks, "Nietzsche's *Birth of Tragedy* and Mann's *Death in Venice*, in: Mann, *Death in Venice*. loc.cit.

Galerstein, "Images of Decadence in Visconti's *Death in Venice*," *Literature/Film Quarterly* 13 (1985) 1: 29-34

Claude Cernuschi, "Kokoschka and Freud. Parallel Logics in the Exegetical and Rhetorical Strategies of Expressionism and Psychoanalysis," in: *Word & Image: A Journal of Verbal/Visual Enquiry* 15 (1999) 4: 351-80

Peter Nicholls: "Sexuality and Structure: Tensions in Early Expressionist Drama," in: *New Theatre Quarterly* 7 (1991) 26: 160-170

Hal Foster, "The Expressionist Fallacy," in: Hal Foster, *Recodings*.

Carl E. Schorske, "Explosion in the Garden," in: Carl E. Schorske, *Fin-De-Siecle*

Neil A. Donahue, "Fear and Fascination in the Big City: Rainer Maria Rilke's Use of Georg Simmel in *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge* (1910)," in: *Forms of Disruption*, loc.cit., 75-100.

Neil H. Donahue, "The Solution to Silence: The Emergence of Abstraction in Hugo von Hofmannsthal's 'Chandos Letter,'" in: Neil H. Donahue, *Forms of Disruption*.

Abstraction in Modern German Prose. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press

1993, 35-52

Judith Ryan, "Each One As She May: Melanctha, Tonka, Nadja," in: *Modernity and the Text. Revisions of German Modernism*, eds. Andreas Huyssen and David Bathrick. New York: Columbia UP, 1989, 95-109

Marilyn Gaddis Rose, "Gertrude Stein and Cubist Narrative," *Modern Fiction Studies* 1976; 22

Gisela Brinker-Gabler: "Renaming the Human. Andreas-Salome's 'Becoming Woman,'" in: *Seminar* 36 (2000) 1: 22-41

Geoffrey Waite, "Worringer's Abstraction and Empathy," in: (ed) Neil H. Donahue, *Invisible Cathedrals. The Expressionist Art History of Wilhelm Worringer*. University Park, PA: Penn State UP, 13-40

Neil A. Donahue, "Wilhelm Worringer. Abstraction as Style," in: *Forms of Disruption*, loc.cit., 13-34

Peter Uwe Hohendahl, "The Loss of Reality. Gottfried Benn's Early Prose," in: *Modernity and the Text*, loc.cit., 81-94

Neil E. Donahue, "Ecstatic Montage. Paratactic Visions in Gottfried Benn's Novella Cycle 'Brains' (1916)," in: *Forms of Disruption*, loc.cit., 161-183

Karen L. Levenback, "Life and Death, Memory and Denial in Postwar London," in: K.L.L., *Virginia Woolf and the Great War*. Syracuse: Syracuse UP, 1999

Theodor Adorno, "Notes on Kafka."

Jacques Derrida, "Before the Law."

Janet Woolf, "The Invisible Flaneuse", in: *Modernity and the Text*, loc.cit.

Carsten Strathausen, "Uncanny Spaces: the City in Ruttman and Vertov."

Katharina von Ankum, "Gendered Urban Spaces in Irmgard Keun's *Das Kunstseidene Mädchen*," in: *Women and the Metropolis. Gender and Modernity in Weimar Culture*. Berkeley, Ca.: University of CP, 162-184

Leo A. Lensing, "Cinema, Society, and Literature in I.K.'s *Das Kunstseidene Mädchen*." *Germanic Review* 60 (1985), 129-34.

Siegfried Kracauer, "The Little Shop Girls Go the Movies," in: S.K. *The Mass Ornament*. Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press, 1995

Astrid Oesmann, "Tracing the Crimes of Capitalism: From Mahagonny to Nazi Germany," in: *Brecht Yearbook/Das Brecht-Jahrbuch* 29 (2004): 98-110

Steve Giles, "Materialism and Modernity in Mahagonny: Brecht's Double Dystopia," in: *Brecht Yearbook/Das Brecht-Jahrbuch* 29 (2004): 306-23

Jean Francois Trubert: "Mahagonny: A Living Mask." In: *Brecht Yearbook* 29 (1904), 194-209.

David Chisholm, Brecht's and Weill's Views of Mahagonny: Musical-Textual Tensions. In: *Brecht Yearbook* 29 (2004): 182-192.

Eric Katz, "Nothing to Rely On: Nature and Humanity in the City of Mahagonny," in: *Isle: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 4 (1997) 2: 53-60

Karla Schultz, "Utopias From Hell: Brecht's Mahagonny and Adorno's Treasure of Indian Joe. In: *Monatshefte für Deutschsprachige Literatur und Kultur* 90 (1998) 3, 306-16.

John Nichols, "Saving the Fallen City of Mahagonny: The Musical Elaboration of Brecht's Epic Theatre." In: *Text & Presentation: The Journal of the Comparative Drama Conference* 14 (1993): 71-74

