

University of Cyprus
Department of English Studies

ENG 249: Frontiers of/in Europe

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ECTS: 5

Office Hours: M 4.30-6.00; T: 2-3; TH 4.30-6.00

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course considers the notion of frontiers from an interdisciplinary perspective by bringing together texts from Philosophy, Literature, History, Criticism and Cinema. The central questions examined in this course are: (a) Is the question of frontiers necessarily and exclusively a question about geography? And (b) How is our understanding of frontiers informed by examining closely ossified ways of thinking? Thematically the course is divided in three sections: (a) *God*, (b) *Man* and (c) *Beast*. The first deals with the “discovery” and colonialism of the New World and the justifications offered for it. The second explores the implications of the controversy surrounding Hannah Arendt’s report on the Eichmann trial for the *New Yorker* magazine, on thinking itself. And finally the third section explores the question of frontiers by looking at the ways Europe treats its others within and without. In this final unit the focus is on the Cyprus Conflict, Immigration and the Refugee Crisis.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London, New York: Verso, 1983. (in course package)

Arendt Hannah. *Eichmann in Jerusalem, a report on the Banality of Evil*. NY: Penguin, 196. **(REQUIRED)**

De Las Casas Bartolome. *The Devastation of the Indies, a brief account*, trans. Herma Briffault. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1992. **(REQUIRED)**
<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/20321>

Heidegger Martin. *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, trans. William Lovitt. NY: Harper and Row, 1977.

Navaro-Yashin, Yael. *The Make-Believe Space: Affective Geography in a Postwar Polity*. Duke University Press, 2012. **(REQUIRED)**

FILMOGRAPHY

Joffe, Roland. *The Mission* (UK, 1986)

Pierson, Frank. *Conspiracy* (UK, 2001).

Schirk, Heinz. *The Final Solution: The Wannsee Conference* (Austria, 1984)

Stylianou, Danai. *Sharing an Island* (Cyprus, 2012)

Von Trotta, Margarethe. *Hannah Arendt* (Germany, 2012)

Williams, Paul Andrew. *The Eichmann Show* (UK, 2015)

Ching, Steph and Ellen Martinez. *After Spring* (USA, 2016).

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Class Preparation and Participation

I expect everyone to come to class fully prepared to discuss the material. Preparation includes reading the material, taking detailed notes, and noting down questions. As you are reading each of the assignments try to think what the main argument of the reading is and how the author arrives at such a conclusion. Engage with the author in such a way that as you read, try, to also respond in your mind, or by taking notes, to what she or he says. Excellent participation involves regular, thoughtful contributions to discussions: expressing your understanding of the material, and developing and thinking critically about your own positions. Some of the material that we will read makes for a lively class discussion; while disagreement is expected disrespect will not be tolerated.

Attendance

Missing any class, coming in late to class, or leaving early will all detract from the final grade; if you do miss a class, you are still completely responsible for knowing what was covered in class that day and for finding out if there were any assignments given. Please call another student in the class to find out what you missed.

Note: *The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during class time.* Your phones must be switched off while you are in class unless there is an extremely serious reason for you to keep them on.

Late Paper/Assignment Submission Policy

All papers assigned for this course must be submitted on the dates, times and places indicated on your syllabus and/or assignments. No email submissions will be accepted unless you have checked with me in advance. Failure to meet deadlines will result in a reduction of your overall grade. No exceptions will be made. In cases of illness or other such unforeseeable circumstance please contact me and provide the necessary documentation.

Presentations/Response Papers

You will be responsible for a presentation and a response paper. Assigned topics and further instructions will be provided later on in the semester.

Films

Unless otherwise specified, please consider the films required for this course as your homework and watch them at your own time. You should study them as you would study any other text you are assigned.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. It involves stealing other people's ideas and presenting them as your own. Some examples of plagiarism are: copying another's work, word for word, and presenting it as your own; "borrowing," without properly acknowledging the source, paragraphs, sentences, ideas, or even key concepts; and paraphrasing another's work and claiming it as your own. Additional information about plagiarism and citation rules will be provided during the semester. Exhibiting lack of academic integrity in any of its varied forms will result in a failing grade.

Grading

Participation/Preparation/Attendance 10%

Presentations/Short Response Paper 10%

Midterm Examination 30%

Final Exam 50%

SCHEDULE

Introduction

WEEK 1: Jan.15-18

Optional Reading:

- Martin Heidegger, *The Age of the World Picture*

GOD

WEEK 2: Jan. 22-25

Reading:

- Bartolome De Las Casas, *The Devastation of the Indies*

WEEK 3: Jan. 29-Feb.1

Reading:

- Bartolome De Las Casas, *The Devastation of the Indies*

WEEK 4: Feb. 5-8

View:

- Roland Joffe's *The Mission* (1986)

MAN

WEEK 5: Feb. 12-15

View:

- Heinz, Schirk. *The Final Solution: The Wannsee Conference* (UK, 1984)
- Frank, Pierson. *Conspiracy* (UK, 2001)
- Paul Andrew Williams. *The Eichmann Show* (UK, 2015)

Reading:

- Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

WEEK 6: Feb. 22

*****MIDTERM IN-CLASS EXAMINATION February 22 *****

WEEK 7: Feb. 26-March 1

Reading:

- Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

WEEK 8: March 5-8

View:

- Margarethe Von Trotta. *Hannah Arendt* (Germany, 2012)

BEAST

WEEK 9: March 12-15

Reading:

- Excerpts from Anderson's *Imagined Communities*
- Navaro Yashin's, *The Make Believe Space*

WEEK 10: March 19-22

Reading:

- Navaro Yashin's, *The Make Believe Space*

WEEK 11: March 26-29

Reading:

- Navaro Yashin's, *The Make Believe Space*

WEEK 12: April 16-19

View:

- Danai Stylianou. *Sharing an Island* (Cyprus, 2012)

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 13: April 23-26

View:

- Ching, Steph and Ellen Martinez. *After Spring* (USA, 2016).

WEEK 14: April 30-May 3

- Final Thoughts