

## ***LITERATURE AND TECHNOLOGIES OF THE SELF***

*ENG 527 Spring 2018*

*Instructor: Anastasia Nikolopoulou*

*Office Hours. Thursday 11.00-1.00 (School of Humanities, Kallipoleos 65 1<sup>st</sup> floor)  
and by appointment*

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In this course we will explore how narratives of resilience and endurance challenge forms of governmentality that control marginalized populations. From eighteenth century slave uprisings to present day refugees, representations of human resilience are prominent themes in theatre plays, short stories, and films. We will also consider how social and cultural theories interpret the capacity of the individual to overcome extreme hardship with agency and resourcefulness. Main readings are taken from Michel Foucault, Erich Fromm, Hannah Arendt, Giorgio Agamben, W. Barrymore, John Walker, Ismail Khalidi, Samah Sabawi, Wadji Mouawad, Frantz Fanon, Aime Cesaire. Films include *After Spring, Paradise Now, Horses of God, and Divine Intervention.*

### *Requirements*

*Mid term report 30% ; Final paper 40%;*

*Creative/Academic Presentation—details in class 20%*

*Participation 10%*

*Absences: More than three absences in class could affect your performance as you will be missing lectures that cannot be accessible elsewhere.*

*If you are facing medical or other problems that might oblige you to miss a class, communicate with me as soon as possible by email.*

### **KEEP COPIES OF YOUR ASSIGNMENTS ON DISK**

*Each of these assignments must be stored on your computer and an extra USB or diskette, so if they are lost or misplaced you should be able to retrieve them again.*

### **Policy:**

--Regular attendance in class and participation in discussions. **HABITS YOU MUST TRY TO FORGET:** forgetting your course packet at home. The schedule is subject to change so you need to check with your classmates if you miss a class.

Read the material in advance, keep notes, contact me or your adviser on any difficulties you may be facing in your studies, email me questions, and stay in tune with classmates who need support. Any updates on the course will be communicated to you through the email. Make sure you check your email at least twice a week.

*The readings are in two packets at Parga Bookstore (campus). Copyright fee is included where it applies.*

**Schedule of events-- Some classes marked with an asterisk will be rescheduled due to administrative responsibilities**

January 16 Introduction, Ellen Martinez, Steph King, Jon Stewart, Kilian Kleinschmidt, *After Spring*.

**PART I: The Challenge of “Bare Life”**

Jan 19 Michel Foucault, “Biopolitics.” Giorgio Agamben, “Bare Life.”

January 23 Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks (excerpts)*; Erich Fromm, *Escape from Freedom (excerpts)*

Jan 26 Fanon, Fromm (cont).

Jan 30 Sama Sabawi, *Tales of the City by the Sea*

Feb 2 Sabawi (cont)

Feb. 6 Asghar Farhadi, *Separation*

**Part II: Thinking through the Past/Enclosures**

Feb 9 Gary Fields, “Enclosures;” Aime Cesaire, Discourse on Colonialism

**Feb 13 (TBA)**

\*\*\*Feb 16 Hany Abu-Assad, *Paradise Now*

Feb 20-- 18<sup>th</sup> century Slave Revolts: Barrymore, *Cato; or the Slave’s Revenge (1830)*

- *The Greatest Emancipation* <https://youtu.be/ZaTNm0a09Lo>

Feb 23-- 19<sup>th</sup> century Agricultural Revolts: Robert Taylor, *Swing, or, Who are the incendiaries?: a tragedy, founded on late circumstances and as performed at the Rotunda (1831)*.

- E.P. Thompson, “Field Labourers”

Feb 27 Taylor, Barrymore (cont)

**Part III: Resilience and Agency**

**PP March 2 Presentations** ; Agier, “Between War and City: Towards an Urban Anthropology of Refugee Camps.”

Life in a Refugee Camp <https://youtu.be/tBNBX21ptzw>

March 6 Martin Buber, *I and Thou*

March 9, Topics for Mid Term Report; Buber (cont)

**PP March 13 presentations**

March 16 Nabil Ayouch, *Horses of God*

**PP March 20 presentations****March 23 Mid Term Report Due**

March 27 Ismail Khalidi, *Sabra Falling*

- “Refugees are not the Crisis; it’s the narrative we tell about them” (UNHCR)  
<http://www.unhcr.org/innovation/refugees-are-not-the-crisis-its-the-narratives-we-tell-about-them/>

March 30 Khalidi (cont)

**April 2-15 Easter Break**

April 17 Elia Suleiman, *Divine Intervention*

April 20 Denis Villeneuve, *Incendies*; Hannah Arendt, “Vita Activa”

April 24 Wadji Mouawad, *Incendies*

**PP April 27 presentations.** *Incendies (cont)*

**PP May 4 presentations; topics for final paper**