

Derrida, Film, Media, Literature, Religion, Translation



Jacques Derrida

DRAGAN KUJUNDZIC

LIT 4930, JST 4936 — Derrida and Literature. Turlington Rm 2342, TR 7, 7 – 8

The impact of the leading philosopher of what is known as deconstruction, “the most famous philosopher,” the “global philosopher,” as he was dubbed during his lifetime, Jacques Derrida, will be discussed in the context of his writing on literature (Shakespeare, Kafka, Paul Celan, E. A. Poe, etc); religion, the Bible and Messianism; translation theory (Walter Benjamin); media and cinema (two films on Derrida will be screened, as well as films that were read by the method of “deconstruction,” David Wills’s essay on Peter Greenaway will be read and the films screened, among others; Derrida and television); art and museum (Derrida’s *Memoirs of the Blind* book about the Louvre). Other writers close to Derrida and their writings will be discussed (J. Hillis Miller on the kiss in Henry James’ *Turn of the Screw*; Paul de Man on Shelley); Freud and psychoanalysis will be discussed, in light of Derrida’s *Archive Fever* and *Resistance to Psychoanalysis*; Derrida and Judaism (Levinas). Derrida’s work on Austin’s speech act theory will be discussed, as well as his polemical writings about Jacques Lacan and Michel Foucault. Critical texts (which will be read as selected passages or a few shorter books by Derrida) will always be accompanied by readings of primary literary texts, films, media or artwork.

There will be two take home exams (40% each), and participation and attendance will count for 20% of the grade.