

The Self and the Call of the Other  
K10.0049 Professor Greenberg

Fall 2008

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Office: 417, 715 Broadway.

Office hours: 1:45-2:30 on by appt. Mon or Wed 1:45-2:30

Ovid's story of Echo and Narcissus from the *Metamorphoses* portrays the dangers of refusing to heed the call of the Other. This class takes Ovid's story as a model for investigating what constitutes our idea of the Self and how that Self is shaped in relation to the Other – questions considered by psychologists, writers, philosophers, filmmakers and literary critics.

Requirements:

- ❖ Attendance, diligent reading and active participation in all class discussions  
You are required to attend *every* class and arrive on time. This class works as a group as we analyze the reading material, thus it is necessary that every member of the class remains engaged in discussions and keeps up with all assignments. While some students may have difficulty speaking up, the learning process works best when you articulate your thoughts and your classmates can learn from your insights. If you need to miss a class, please speak with me beforehand or certainly after. *More than two unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.* Please ensure that cell phones are turned off during class.
  
- ❖ Written Reflections  
Bring to class 3 main points or questions based on the day's assignment, written *neatly* on an index card. I will collect index cards at the *beginning* of each class.
  
- ❖ Papers  
Three short essays, a mid-term and final paper, due on time. For every day late, the paper will be lowered a half grade (A to A-, etc.). If you have an extenuating circumstance for which you need an extension, please speak with me *beforehand*.
  
- ❖ Presentation:  
You will select one day during the semester during which you will present a short synopsis/your view of the readings along with questions for discussion.

Books: Available at Bluestockings Bookstore (172 Allen Street between Stanton and Rivington, 212.777.6028, [www.bluestockings.com](http://www.bluestockings.com)) or in class on Monday, September 8

Ovid, *The Metamorphoses*

Sarah Ruhl, *The Clean House and Other Plays*

James Joyce, *Dubliners* (contains the story "The Dead")

Marguerite Duras, *The Ravishing of Lol Stein*.

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

E. M. Forster, *A Passage to India*

You also must buy 1 pack of index cards for your 3 points/questions (no torn pieces of paper)

Readings Packet: Available at NYU Bookstore

Films: Can be viewed at Avery Fisher Hall in Bobst Library

September 3: Introduction: Ovid's story of Echo and Narcissus

8: Read Hollander; **written assignment due:** 2 pages about some aspect of Ovid's story

10: Blanchot

15: Ruhl, *Eurydice*

17: Freud

22: Kohut

24: Winnicott, Benjamin

29: Joyce "The Dead"

October 1: **No class: Rosh Hashana**

6: Read Lacan ❖ **written assignment due:** 1-2 pages applying class theory to "The Dead"

8: Hitchcock's *Spellbound*

13: **No class, Columbus Day**

15: Irigaray, Lawrence

20: Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*, first half

22: *Mrs. Dalloway*, second half

27: Caruth

29: Brison, rethink *Mrs. Dalloway* ❖ **Midterm paper due, 5 pages**

November 3: Duras, *The Ravishing of Lol V. Stein*, first half

5: *Ravishing of Lol Stein*, second half

10: Nouvet

12: Greenberg, Spivak (on Echo) ❖ **written assignment due:** 1-2 pages applying recent theory to *Mrs. Dalloway* or *The Ravishing of Lol Stein*

17: Morrison, *Beloved*, first half

19 **No class: Thanksgiving**

24: Finish discussing *Beloved*

26: view *Sunset Boulevard* for class discussion

December 1: Forster, *A Passage to India*, first half

3: *A Passage to India*, second half

December 8: Said, Spivak (on the Subaltern woman)

December 10: wrap up & party ❖ **Final paper due, 5 pages**