

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

Fall 2009, M & W: 12:30-1:45 room 401
Office: 429, 715 Broadway

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Office hours: Mon 12-12:30

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 and computers 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 (no paper scraps). I will collect index cards at the *beginning* of each class.
- ❖ Papers
Two 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 (5-10 minute) synopsis of the readings along with questions for discussion.

Books: will be sold in class on Monday, Sept 14 and available at Bluestockings Bookstore (172 Allen Street between Stanton and Rivington, 212.777.6028, www.bluestockings.com)

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*

Readings Packet: Available at NYU Bookstore

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

September 9: Introduction: Ovid's story of Echo and Narcissus

14: Read Hollander closely;

❖ **written assignment due:** 2 page analysis of one idea or phrase from Ovid's story

16: Blanchot

21: Ruhl, *Eurydice*

23: Freud

28: no class. Yom Kippur; view Hitchcock's *Spellbound* over weekend

30: Kohut

October 5: Winnicott, Benjamin

7: Lacan, Continue to discuss Benjamin

12: "The Dead"

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

14: Lawrence

19: *Sunset Boulevard*

21: Nouvet

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

28: keep reading *Mrs. Dalloway*, Caruth

November 2: finish *Mrs. Dalloway*

❖ **Midterm paper due, 5 pages**

4: Brison

9: Greenberg

11: *Ravishing of Lol Stein*, first half

16: *Ravishing of Lol Stein*, second half

18: Spivak (on Echo), Irigaray

23: Morrison, *Beloved*, first half

25 **No class: Thanksgiving**

30: Finish discussing *Beloved*

December 2: Said

7: Forster, *A Passage to India*, first half

9: *A Passage to India*, second half, Spivak (on the Subaltern woman)

14: wrap up & party

❖ **Final paper due, 5 pages**