

The Intermediality of Literature: Reflections of other Media
Dr. Johannes Binotto / FS 18 / Thu 16-18

Syllabus

22.2.	Reading in between: an introduction *Julia Kristeva: „Word, Dialogue and Novel“	
1.3.	The Hauntology of Media William Shakespeare: <i>Hamlet</i>	
8.3.	How to do visual essays Tutorial by Luca Bianchi (luca.bianchi@uzh.ch)	
15.3.	Reframing Media *Marshall McLuhan: <i>Understanding Media</i> (Excerpts)	
22.3.	Book *Anne Bradstreet: „The Author to Her Book“, „Before the Birth of One of Her Children“ + *Paul Valery: „Two Virtues of a Book“	

Easter Break

12.4.	Typewriter *Arthur Conan Doyle: „A Case of Identity“ + *Marshall McLuhan: „The Typewriter“	
19.4.	Photography *Edgar Allan Poe: „The Man of the Crowd“ + *Edgar Allan Poe: „The Daguerreotype“	
26.4.	Camera Virginia Woolf: <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> + *Dziga Vertov: „Kinoki“	
3.5.	Montage Virginia Woolf: <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> + *Virginia Woolf: „The Cinema“	

Ascension

17.5.	Radio Don DeLillo: <i>White Noise</i> + *McLuhan: „The Radio“	
24.5.	Television Don DeLillo: <i>White Noise</i>	
31.5.	Concluding conference Student presentations of visual exercise	

Please note that the syllabus may be subject to change.

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Course description:

Marshall McLuhan in his groundbreaking book „Understanding Media“ famously states that „the content of every medium is always another medium.“ This implies that although different medias need to be distinguished from one another in their unique way of functioning, they nonetheless do not stand in clear-cut opposition to one another but rather have to be thought of as being caught in a form of mutual entanglement, constantly reframing and revising one another.

For the medium of literature we want to ask ourselves in this seminar how different media are not only referenced but actually theorized and eventually reworked in the literary text. What do literary texts tell us about medias such as painting, theatrical performance, music, photography, cinema or television? But also, conversely: How do medias such as these ultimately change the medium of literature? How do new media enable new forms of literary experimentation and expand its possibilities of expression?

Requirements:

In preparation for this seminar students are advised to have read the essay "Word, Dialogue and Novel" by Julia Kristeva (text will be made available on OLAT or can be requested via email).

All students must purchase the following books:

- William Shakespeare: Hamlet (preferably the ARDEN Version)
- Virginia Woolf: Mrs. Dalloway
- Don DeLillo: White Noise

Other texts will be made available on OLAT.

Students must prepare a thesis statement for each class session. These are to be posted on OLAT (course forum) by Wednesday, 9 A.M. of the respective week. This can also entail the combination of a text and an image; it will help class discussion and allow me to see in what directions you have been thinking while preparing for class. These thesis statements will count towards your class participation and is, thus, compulsory for each session. Neglecting to hand in 12 thesis papers will result in a fail.

Students taking the class for 6 KP must write an essay to be handed in on October 1, 2018 by mail as pdf (no Word-Docs).

BA thesis students are asked to present their project in the final session. The BA thesis has to be handed in by November 5, 2018 by mail as pdf (no Word-Docs). It is wise to use the class discussions to test your ideas for the essay.

Because this class is part of the project "Multimediale Textanalyse" you are encouraged to work with the format of the visual essay. Instead of traditional student presentations you will be asked to prepare short visual essay and we will have a presentation of these essays in the last session of our course. In the third class session the tutor Luca Bianchi (luca.biachi@uzh.ch) will introduce you to the program "Lightworks" is meant to help familiarize you with the format of the visual essay. In addition you can also contact him throughout the term for assisting you in preparing your visual exercise for the final class session. You are also encouraged to go to the colloquium offered by Scott Loren, "Rhetoric of the Image: Visual Essays and Expository Filmmaking" for 3KP.