

**HS 2023 – M.A. Seminar  
Women and Modernity:  
Literature, Visual Culture, Film  
Thursday 16.15-18.00  
Prof. Elisabeth Bronfen**

Please note that the readings have changed significantly from the initial course description. Virginia Woolf's writings and her cultural afterlife are now the focus of the seminar, owing to the exhibition in spring 2025 at the Strauhof, honoring the centenary of the publication of *Mrs. Dalloway*.

- (1) Sept 21      **Meet and Greet on Zoom:**  
Introductions and course organization, planning of an additional workshop
- (2) Oct. 5      Individual Group work
- Feminist manifestos
- (3) Oct 19  
*A Room of One's Own* (1929)  
*Three Guineas* (1938)
- Major novels and companion pieces
- (4) Oct 26      *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925)
- (5) Nov 2      *To the Lighthouse* (1927)
- (6) Nov 16      Vita Sackville-West. *All Passion Spent* (1931)
- (7) Nov 23      *Orlando* (1928)  
Sally Potter. *Orlando* (film 1992)
- Virginia Woolf's literary and cinematic afterlife
- (8) Nov 30      Michael Cunningham. *The Hours* (1998)
- (9) Dec 7      Toni Morrison. *Jazz* (1992)
- (10) Dec 14      Robert Altman. *Short Cuts*. (film 1993)
- (11) Dec 21      Laura Poitras. *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed* (film 2022)

### *Course Requirements*

*Portfolio (40% of final grade)*

Students are required to complete the following tasks as part of the portfolio:

*Forum Posts:* All students must write a forum post for 5 of the seminar sessions (approx. 400 words), to be posted on the course's OLAT forum by 9 a.m. on Thursday of the respective week. Contributions should entail a thesis, but could also contain a series of questions, comments, or associations. This should not only help you practice your argumentative skills, but also facilitates class discussion by allowing us to see in what directions you have been thinking while preparing for each session. The point is not to read out what you have written but, using what you have developed in writing, to engage in a dialogue with the other members of the class.

Students are also asked to develop theses for one class session. The written version in the portfolio should reflect on the class discussion.

*Handing in your portfolio:* At the end of the semester, please compile your forum posts and your thesis reflections. You will need to print this out and **hand it in as a hard copy** on the last day of class, **Dec 21, 2023**.

*Final Essay (60% of final grade)*

All students must hand in an essay (approx. 8000 words) which should evolve from the materials read and viewed in this research seminar, while taking the class discussion into an original direction. The paper must be handed in by **March 15, 2024**. The essay should comply with the MLA style and format guidelines (i.e. be typed in a **12p serif font**, 1.5-spaced, **ample margins** for comments, and have a title page).

Hand in a **hardcopy** of your essay to Prof. Bronfen by post:

Elisabeth Bronfen  
Ottikerstrasse 18  
8006 Zürich.

There will be no extension of the deadline. **Do not send the essay as an email attachment.**