

AMERICAN GOTHIC
SEMINAR PROF. ELISABETH BRONFEN
WINTER TERM 2006/2007
THURSDAY 16-18

1. 26.10 Sigmund Freud: *Civilization and its Discontents/Das Unbehagen in der Kultur*

2. 02.11 No session

INVENTION OF THE AMERICAN GOTHIC

3. 09.11 Charles Brockden-Brown: *Edgar Huntly or Memoirs of a Sleep-Walker*

EVOLUTION OF A NATIONAL NARRATIVE

4. 16.11 Washington Irving: "Legend of Sleepy Hollow", ("Rip van Winkle")

5. 23.11 Nathaniel Hawthorne: "Young Goodman Brown", ("Rappacini's Daughter")

6. 30.11 Herman Melville: "The Bell-Tower", ("Benito Cereno")

7. 07.12. M. Knight Shyamalan: "The Village"

MODERN AMERICAN GOTHIC

8. 14.12 Henry James: "Turn of the Screw" ("The Jolly Corner")

9. 21.12 Truman Capote: *In Cold Blood*

10. 11.01 Martin Scorsese: "After Hours"

11. 18.01 Stanley Kubrick: "Eyes Wide Shut"

12. 25.01. Edgar Allen Poe: "Fall of the House of Usher", "The Masque of the Red Death"

13. 01.02. Stephen King: *The Shining*

14. 08.02. Bret Easton Ellis: *Lunar Park*

Please read Fred Botting, *Gothic* (Routledge 1996) **before** the seminar starts, as this is an excellent introduction to the historical as well as the theoretical issues at stake. We will use Freud's essay on the discontents of culture as our theoretical point of departure, so this also **must be read by the first week** of the seminar.

Each student will be asked to **sign up for one oral presentation**. Please choose a subject which illuminates an aspect of the text you will be dealing with by offering theses towards an analysis and interpretation of the text. A bibliography for the seminar as well as a selection of secondary literature pertinent to the reading of individual texts will be made available in early September in a seminar binder in the library. Please consult the secondary literature for preparing the texts in question.

Screenings of the films will be discussed in the first week of class.

A note on seminar papers: please hand in your papers – 15 pages minimum, hard copy – by Friday, March 2nd.

REQUIRED COURSE READING

- Botting, Fred. *Gothic*. London: Routledge, 2004.
Freud, Sigmund. *Das Unbehagen in der Kultur und andere kulturtheoretische Schriften*. Frankfurt/M.: Fischer, 1994.

RECOMMENDED EDITIONS

- Brockden-Brown, Charles. *Edgar Huntly: Or, Memoirs of a Sleep-Walker*. London: Penguin, 1998.
Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood. A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences*. New York: Vintage Books, 1994.
Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *Selected Tales and Sketches*. London: Penguin, 1987.
Irving, Washington. *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Other Stories*. London: Penguin, 1999.
James, Henry. *The Turn of the Screw and Other Stories*. London: Oxford UP, 1998.
King, Stephen. *The Shining*. New York: Pocket Books, 2001.
Melville, Herman. *Billy Budd, Sailor and Other Stories*. London: Penguin, 1989.
Poe, Edgar Allen. *Complete Stories and Poems of Edgar Allen Poe*. New York: Doubleday Books, 1994.
Ellis, Bret Easton. *Lunar Park*. New York: Vintage, 2005.