

FS 2023 – M.A. Seminar  
**Female Hollywood.**  
**Directors, Writers, Stars**  
Prof. Elisabeth Bronfen  
*Wednesday 16.15 – 18.00*

- (1) Feb 22      **Meet and Greet:** Introductions and course organization
- (2) Mar 1      Billy Wilder: *Sunset Boulevard* (1950)  
Star: Gloria Swanson
- (3) Mar 8      Dorothy Arzner: *Christopher Strong* (1933)  
Screenplay: Zoe Akins  
Star: Katherine Hepburn
- (4) Mar 15     Joseph L Mankiewicz: *All About Eve* (1950)  
Stars: Bette Davis, Ann Baxter, and Marilyn Monroe
- (5) Mar 22     Howard Hawks: *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1953)  
Anita Loos' novel: *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1925)  
Stars: Marilyn Monroe, Jane Russell  
Madonna: *Material Girl* (1984)
- (6) Mar 29     Dr. Katharina Gerund lecture “Josephine Baker: Singer, Superstar and Spy”
- (7) Apr 5      William A. Wellman: *A Star is Born* (1937)  
Screenplay: Dorothy Parker  
Stars: Janet Gaynor and Fredric March
- (8) Apr 19     George Cukor: *A Star is Born* (1954)  
Screenplay: Dorothy Parker  
Stars: Judy Garland and James Mason
- (9) Apr 26     William Wyler: *Funny Girl* (1968)  
Screenplay Isobel Lennart  
Star: Barbara Streisand
- (10) May 3     Barbara Streisand: *Yentl* (1983)  
Screenplay: Barbara Streisand  
Star: Barbara Streisand
- (11) May 10    Ida Lupino: *The Bigamist* (1953)  
Star: Ida Lupino and Joan Fontaine
- (12) May 24    Greta Gerwig: *Little Women* (2019)  
Screenplay: Greta Gerwig
- Farewell-Lecture: *Taking a Bow. Abschlüsse und Neuanfänge bei Shakespeare*
- (13) May 31    Jane Campion: *Power of the Dog* (2021)  
Screenplay: Jane Campion

*Preparatory Reading:* Elisabeth Bronfen und Norbert Grob. *Classic Hollywood*. Reclam 2013.

## *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 9 of the seminar sessions (approx. 400 words), to be posted on the course's OLAT forum by 9 a.m. on Tuesday 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. Please note that thesis papers that are not posted on time will not be counted towards your portfolio grade.

*Short Research Paper or Visual Research Essay:* Students will do background research on the subject of the session assigned to them and compile this research in a short essay (1250-2000 words). This can also be a visual essay (max. 5 min.). You will be asked to speak to the content of your research in the corresponding session. Students will be asked to sign up for a session in the first class. A final version of the research paper should be included in the portfolio.

*Handing in your portfolio:* At the end of the semester, please compile your forum posts and your short research essay using the template provided on OLAT. You will need to print this out and **hand it in as a hard copy** on the last day of class, **May 31, 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 **October 16, 2023**. 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's pigeonhole in the secretary's office, or send it to Elisabeth Bronfen, Ottikerstrasse 18, 8006 Zürich. There will be no extension of the deadline. **Do not send the essay as an email attachment.**