The Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University
Spring 2012

First-Year Research Seminar: ART and the DREAM LIFE (FIRST-UG712)
Monday/Wednesday, 4:55 - 6:10 PM

Instructor: Yevgeniya Traps
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Office: 613 1 Washington Place (Mailbox: Sixth Floor, 1 Washington Place)
Office Hour: Monday, 7:45-8:30PM; Wednesday, 4:30 – 6PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Art and the Dream Life

What is the connection between sleeping and waking life, between dream visions and creativity? Are dreams prophetic or aesthetic? Do they fulfill desire or endlessly frustrate it? Do they reveal or conceal our truest selves? Taking these issues as our starting points, we will consider a variety of texts - scientific, religious, philosophical, literary, visual, and film, as well as our own dreams - as we explore the connections between sleep and aesthetics, between nightmares and trauma, between dreams and beauty. We will think too about the possibilities art offers for reconciling the many paradoxes of dreaming.

Using writing as a way of reading and thinking critically, we will work, throughout the semester, on the process of crafting analytical and literary critical essays, as well as a final research paper.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All texts have been ordered at the NYU Bookstore (726 Broadway).


All other readings will be made available via BlackBoard (indicated as BB on the schedule) or as handouts.

COURSE POLICIES
It is essential that you attend class regularly, arrive promptly, and submit all work on time. If you suspect you might need an extension, please let me know well ahead of time so that we can make arrangements. If you need to miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out about any work you may have missed. Please keep in mind that more than two unexcused absences will have an adverse effect on your grade; so will persistent lateness.

Participation—both in class discussion and in smaller group work—is an important part of your course grade. Please come to class prepared to ask questions, to comment, to fully engage. You must bring the assigned readings to each class meeting.

REMEMBER: Any and all work you hand in this semester must be your own. Whenever you use someone else’s words or ideas, you must cite them properly. As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating. Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website [www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html] for a full description of the academic integrity policy.

The Writing Center is open for consultations and help with all writing assignments. More information can be found at http://nyu.edu/gallatin/writingschedule

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I am glad to meet with you to discuss all assignments or any other aspect of the course.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS and REQUIREMENTS

I will be splitting the class into four groups; the groups will be leading our class discussions on assigned days. On those days when you will be leading, you will be responsible for posting individual page-long reading response to the appropriate BlackBoard forum, commenting on the assigned reading/listening/viewing, identifying textual issues and other points meriting closer attention. Ideally, the responses will serve to generate ideas; think of them as an opportunity to reflect on the reading and to prepare for more formal writing assignments. Your response must be posted no later than NOON of the day you will be leading discussion. We will occasionally use these responses for workshopping purposes, as well as in-class writing prompts. In addition, you will need to prepare, as a group, for producing and posting five to seven questions meant to generate discussion on BlackBoard. The questions must be posted no later than NOON of the day your group will be leading discussion.

You will also be keeping a dream journal, an ongoing semester-long project. Selections from the journal will be handed in at the end of the semester. You will also be asked to read from your journals during our last class meeting.
You will be asked to prepare two presentations in the course of the semester. You will have the chance to sign up for presentation times shortly. The first presentation will be on a reading/art work, selected by you and connected to sleep and/or dreaming; the second will be based on your research in preparation for the third paper.

You will also be responsible for two essays and a research paper in the course of the semester. Because we will be approaching writing as a process, you will be expected to bring in drafts of work in progress for in-class workshops. All submitted essays must be accompanied by a one- to two-page reflection on the writing and revision process, articulating your goals for and concerns about the paper, as well as a careful consideration of the choices you made in accomplishing these goals and addressing these concerns.

PLEASE NOTE: All papers will be submitted electronically, as PDF files. The file name must be “LastName EssayNumber.” Essays must be submitted by SIX O’CLOCK on the date due. Late papers will be penalized.

The FIRST PAPER will be a two- to three-page close reading. You will be asked to discuss a particular line/image/passage in relation to the work of which it is part, to consider its significance in relation to the whole, and discuss its contribution to the work’s meaning.

The SECOND PAPER will be a three- to five-page analysis of some aspect of a text using a theoretical model derived from another text. That is, you will be asked to discuss a text in terms of another text.

The THIRD PAPER will be a six- to eight-page research paper on a topic of your own choosing. As part of the research project, you will need to submit an annotated bibliography and a literature review. You will also be presenting your research to the class.

READING SCHEDULE
The schedule is subject to change—with notice—depending on the pace we establish. We will also be devoting some of our class time to discussions of writing techniques.

Monday, January 23
INTRO

Wednesday, January 25
“Are Dreams Experiences?” (BB)
“The Dream as Text, the Dream as Narrative” (BB)

Monday, January 30
“Creative Writers and Daydreaming” (BB)
“The Occurrence in Dreams of Material from Fairy Tales” (BB)
“Ole-Luk-Oie, the Dream-God” (BB)
LISTEN: M83, Hurry Up We’re Dreaming (BB)

Wednesday, February 1
“Good Old Neon” (in Oblivion)
“Making Pictures”; “On Vivacity,” “On Solidity,” and “The Place of Instruction” (in Dreaming by the Book)
LISTEN: Washed Out (BB)
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group III</td>
<td>LISTEN: Bat for Lashes, Fur and Gold (BB)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 8</td>
<td>FIRST PAPER WORKSHOP</td>
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<td>Monday, February 13</td>
<td>“The Method of Interpreting Dreams,” “The Dream as Wish-Fulfillment,” and “Distortion in Dreams” (in The Interpretation of Dreams)</td>
<td>LISTEN: Anomie Belle (BB)</td>
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<td>Group IV</td>
<td>FIRST PAPER DUE</td>
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<td>Group I</td>
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<td>Monday, February 20</td>
<td>PRESIDENT’S DAY</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 22</td>
<td>“Seminar on Children’s Dreams” (in Children’s Dreams)</td>
<td>LISTEN: Sonic Youth, Daydream Nation (BB)</td>
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<td>Group II</td>
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<td>Monday, February 27</td>
<td>Alice in Wonderland (BB)</td>
<td>“The Problem of Bizarreness” (in Dreaming and Storytelling)</td>
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<td>Group III</td>
<td>LISTEN: Deerhunter, Cryptograms (BB)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 29</td>
<td>In-Class Film Screening</td>
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<td>Monday, March 5</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 7</td>
<td>LIBRARY INSTRUCTION SESSION</td>
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<td>Monday, March 12</td>
<td>SPRING RECESS</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 14</td>
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<td>Monday, March 19</td>
<td>The First Surrealist Manifesto (BB)</td>
<td>The Dream Life of Balso Snell (BB)</td>
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<td>Group IV</td>
<td>Un Chien Andalou (BB)</td>
<td>LISTEN: Lykke Li, Youth Novels (BB)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 21</td>
<td>SECOND PAPER WORKSHOP</td>
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<td>Monday, March 26</td>
<td>Joseph Cornell’s Dreams</td>
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Group I
Joseph Cornell’s Art (BB)
LISTEN: Mazzy Star, Among My Swan (BB)
SECOND PAPER DUE

Wednesday, March 28
The Confessions of an English Opium Eater (BB)
Group II
Chapters 1-5 (in The Nature and Functions of Dreaming)
LISTEN: Camera Obscura, Lets Get Out of This Country (BB)

Monday, April 2
The Metamorphosis (BB)
Group III
Chapters 6-7 (in The Nature and Functions of Dreaming)
LISTEN: The Cure, Faith (BB)

Wednesday, April 4
from “Dreaming” (in Night)
Group IV
Chapters 8-13 (in The Nature and Functions of Dreaming)
LISTEN: Elysian Fields, Dreams That Breathe Your Name (BB)

Monday, April 9
The Sandman
“Scripts and Archetypes” (in Dreaming and Storytelling)
LISTEN: The Smiths, Strangeways, Here We Come (BB)

Wednesday, April 11
The Sandman
“The Master Forms” (in Dreaming and Storytelling)
LISTEN: This Mortal Coil (BB)

Monday, April 16
In-Class Film Screening

Wednesday, April 18
In-Class Film Screening

Monday, April 23
RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday, April 25
RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Monday, April 30
RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday, May 2
THIRD PAPER WORKSHOP

Monday, May 7
CONCLUSIONS
Dream Journal Readings