Metaphor and Meaning
IDSEM-UG 1341, Fall 2013
1 Washington Place, Room 601
Professor Stacy Pies
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

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Course description: Since ancient times, poets and philosophers have written about metaphor and its power, while visual artists have transposed the techniques of figurative language from the verbal to the visual. Metaphor has been employed in texts as ornamentation, as a means of introducing new ideas and concepts, and as a way of imitating the working of the mind itself. "Metaphor" in the title of this course is itself a metaphor. Throughout the term, we will investigate how metaphor influences our processes of thinking, creating, and innovating. And we experiment with making our own metaphors, in words and pictures.

Course objectives: In this class, our aim is to observe, feel, think and write about metaphor in action rhetorically, poetically, philosophically and visually. I hope that you will gain a sense of the history of metaphor through both a survey of some main theories of metaphor and attentive reading of examples in texts across time. I also hope that you will become more attuned to the roles of metaphor and figurative language in your fields of interest and your forms of expression.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at NYU bookstore, possibly Shakespeare and Company, and on reserve in Bobst Library)

Course requirements: The work for the class combines class participation, reading, and various types of writing. Class discussion will enable us to make connections between the material we are studying and your areas of interest. Please feel free to propose readings and activities and to bring any additional material to the class that you feel might make it more meaningful.

Important Ground Rules: Attendance is required, and more than two unexcused absences may adversely affect your grade in the course. You are expected to have completed the readings before the class for which they are assigned. Papers are due on
deadline. Please no laptops, cell phones, PDA's etc. in class. Just bring your books, brain, heart and imagination.

REQUIRED WRITING

- Observations (300-500 words) (see schedule below)
- Essays: #1 (1000 words), #2 (1500 words), #3 (1800-2000 words)
- Miscellaneous metaphors, sonnet, concrete poem

Academic Integrity: 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 for a full description of the academic integrity policy

www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html

SCHEDULE

9/3  Introduction

9/5  No class (religious holiday)

9/10 Reading due: Homer's Iliad, Book 18 (handout)

9/12 Reading due: Homer's Iliad (handout); W.H. Auden's "The Shield of Achilles" (handout)
Writing due: Observation #1

9/17 Classical ideas about metaphor and rhetoric
Readings: Aristotle, Poetics

9/19 Aristotle, Rhetoric, Book 3, chapters 1-12 (inclusive)
Writing due: Observation #2 on Aristotle and bring two metaphors to class, one metaphor from your daily life or from a text, and one metaphor that you write.

9/24 Further discussion of Aristotle's Rhetoric and Poetics
Reading due: Ted Cohen, "Metaphor and the Cultivation of Intimacy," and Wayne Booth, "Metaphor as Rhetoric," both essays from On Metaphor
Start thinking and talking about essay #1.

9/26 Modern Thoughts about Premodern Poetics
Reading due: I.A. Richards, The Philosophy of Rhetoric, lectures 3 and 4
Writing due: Rewrite your metaphor from 9/19 and write a new metaphor and bring them in. Bring in an idea for essay #1.
10/1  I.A. Richards, *The Philosophy of Rhetoric*, lectures 5 and 6  
**Writing due:** Observation #3 of Richards

10/3  Reading due: Sonnets of Drayton, Campion, Shakespeare (handout).

10/8  Further sonnetizing.  
**Writing due:** Observation #4 of a sonnet and bring in a sonnet to read that you have written (I will give you instructions)

10/10  Discussion and sonnets  
**Writing due:** Essay #1

10/15  NO CLASS (Fall break)

10/17  Even More Modern Theories of Metaphor  
Reading due: Max Black, "More about Metaphor" (handout); Davidson, "What Metaphors Mean" and Ricoeur, "The Metaphorical Process as Cognition, Imagination, and Feeling" and Black's and Harries's responses in the "Afterthoughts" section in *On Metaphor*. Bring in your own explanation of Black's ideas. You could use examples from sonnets to explain. Bring in questions, too.

10/22  Further discussion of Black, Ricoeur and Davidson  
Rewritten sonnet due

10/24  **Metaphor and Modern Poetics: Romanticism**  
Reading due: Wordsworth, "Preface to the Lyrical Ballads" and poems (handout)  
Ideas for essay #2

10/29  Reading due: More poems, old and new (handout)  
**Writing due:** Observation #5 of a poem

10/31  **Metaphor and Modernism**  
Reading due: Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

11/5  Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

11/7  Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

11/12  Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*  
**Writing due:** Essay #2

11/14  Reading due: More poems, including Wallace Stevens, "Six Significant Landscapes" (handout) and other poems.
11/19  Reading due: "Six Significant Landscapes" and other poems. 
**Writing due:** Observation #6

11/21  **Visual Metaphors**
Reading due: Concrete Poetry; Arnheim, *Visual Thinking*
Visual people: Bring in one or two examples of visual metaphor

11/26  **Visual Metaphors**
Reading due: Concrete Poetry; Arnheim, *Visual Thinking*

11/28  NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Day)

12/3   Reading due: Shiff, "Art and Life: A Metaphoric Relationship" in *On Metaphor*
More discussion of visual metaphors. Discussion of Metaphorium projects and essay #3. 
**Writing due:** Write a concrete poem and bring it in

12/5   Visual metaphors

12/10  Metaphorium
**Essay #3 (1800-2000 words) due**

12/12  Metaphorium and conclusion