WRTNG-UG 1332
New York University

Fall 2015
Gallatin School

Writing the Strange

In this advanced writing seminar students will take an oblique, decentered approach. We will examine the attempts of writers such as Pound, Stein, Mallarmé, Robbe-Grillet et. al. to achieve originality by “making it new”, by “making it strange”, by defamiliarizing both subject matter and format. Our writing projects will be situated at the intersection of the absurd and the surreal; our objective will be to “éstrange” a work-in-progress. Attention will also turn to the theorists of the “strange”, among whom may be Derrida, Barthes, Kristeva and Deleuze & Guattari.

Course Time: Monday & Wednesday 4:55 – 6:10 p.m.
Course Location: #401 Gallatin
Instructor: Victoria A. Blythe, Ph.D.
Office Location:
Office Telephone:
Office Hours:
Home Telephone: 212.254.5428
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov. 02</th>
<th>The Pleasure of the Text</th>
<th>Barthes, “Pleasure...”</th>
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<td>04</td>
<td>Taking it to the Edge</td>
<td>Barthes, cont’d</td>
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<td>09</td>
<td>So Far Out It’s In</td>
<td>Barthes, cont’d</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>The Spectral in the Text</td>
<td>Breton, “Nadja”</td>
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<td>The Image in the Text</td>
<td>Breton, Barthes(x)</td>
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<td>The Aleatory</td>
<td>Mallarme (x)</td>
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**Project No.3**

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<th>23</th>
<th>In the Labyrinth</th>
<th>Robbe-Grillet, “Labyrinth”</th>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Still In the Labyrinth</td>
<td>Robbe-Grillet cont’d</td>
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**Dec. 02**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nomadism</th>
<th>Deleuze &amp; Guattari</th>
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<th>07</th>
<th>The Writing Machine</th>
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<td>09</td>
<td>Rhizomatics</td>
<td>Deleuze, Guattari (x)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Repetition &amp; “Differance”</td>
<td>All the Above</td>
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**Project No.4**
Writing Projects:

Project No.1
Make It New
Following the protocols of Pound and/or the DaDa Manifesto invent a piece of writing that exists on the borders of the new/strange/originary. Theorize on what you have produced.

Project No.2
Painterly Poetics
Select a painterly modus operandi: Futurist, Imagist, Vorticist, Cubist, etc. Place yourself in the position of either Picasso or Stein and attempt a piece of writing that follows the modality of a painterly poetics. Theorize on what you have produced.

Project No.3
The Image in the Text
Consider the relationship that Barthes and Breton theorize between the image and the text. Use the image as your subject or as a textual, writerly, strategy to locate the "strange" in this juxtaposition. Theorize on what you have produced.

Project No.4
Nomad Writing
Consider the "labyrinth" thematized by Robbe-Grillet and the "rhizome" theorized by Deleuze and Guattari. Engage in some "rhizomatics". Theorize on what you have produced.
Course Policies:

Attendance:
Attendance is crucial. We will pursue a policy of collegiality which requires the presence of each to provide commentary, critique and response to the work of his colleagues. One unexcused absence will be permitted per semester. Students will be expected to arrive on time for class.

Submission of Written Work:
All written work will be expected on time in printed (hard copy) format. See syllabus for Project Protocols and due dates.

Incomplete Grade Request:
Should an INC. become necessary it must be requested prior to the last class, in writing, in conformance with Gallatin regulations.

Evaluation & Grading:
Evaluation will depend upon the quality of the work submitted and its relevance to the protocols of each assignment as well as the level of participation in class discussion and contribution to writing workshops. See also "Requirements of the Course", supra.

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Original work is expected. The parameters of quotation, citation and reference will be observed. (Consult MLA guide.) Plagiarism will have an adverse effect on student evaluation to the extent of failure.