Course description:
Ovid’s story of Echo and Narcissus from the *Metamorphoses* portrays the dangers of refusing to heed the call of the Other. This class takes Ovid’s story as a model for investigating what constitutes our idea of the Self and how that Self is shaped in relation to the Other – questions considered by psychologists, writers, philosophers, filmmakers and literary critics.

Course objectives/learning goals:
This course aims to introduce you to interdisciplinary thinking, engage you in reading and interpreting the materials critically and creatively, develop your academic voice, and refine your abilities to analyze and synthesize texts from a variety of disciplines.

Requirements:
- **Attendance, diligent reading and active participation in all class discussions**
  You are required to attend *every* class and arrive on time. This class works as a group as we analyze the reading material, thus it is necessary that every member of the class remains engaged in discussions and keeps up with all assignments. While some students may have difficulty speaking up, the learning process works best when you articulate your thoughts and your classmates can learn from your insights. If you need to miss a class, please speak with me beforehand or certainly after. *More than two unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.* Please ensure that cell phones and computers are turned off during class. If not, I will ask you to leave class for the day and your final grade will be affected.

- **Written Reflections**
  Bring to class 3 main points or questions based on the day’s assignment, written *neatly* on an index card (no paper scraps). I will collect index cards at the *beginning* of each class.

- **Papers**
  One short paper, a mid-term and final paper, ***due on time.*** For every day late, the paper will be lowered a half grade (A to A-, etc.). If you have an extenuating circumstance for which you need an extension, please speak with me *beforehand.* In lieu of one of the papers you can work on a project related to the texts, but must clear the plan with the instructor first.

- **Presentation:**
  You will select one day during the semester during which you will present a *short* (5-10 minute) synopsis of the readings along with questions for discussion.
Grading:
Final grades will be determined by: attendance, participation, seriousness and clarity of ideas presented, and midterm and final papers (or project and paper). Final and midterm will be weighted 50% each and then the final grade can go up or down. Missed classes, late papers, missing reflection cards, and/or a failure to have read the material and participate actively can lower the final grade. Consistent engaged participation in class discussion, demonstration of growth, and creativity and level of work can raise the final grade.

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 (http://gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/integrity.html)

Books:
Please buy, borrow or download as befits your reading habits.
- Ovid, *The Metamorphoses*
- Sarah Ruhl, *The Clean House and Other Plays*
- James Joyce, *Dubliners* (contains the story “The Dead”)
- Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
- E. M. Forster, *A Passage to India*
- Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*

Readings Packet:
Available at NYU Bookstore

Films:
Can be viewed at Avery Fisher Hall in Bobst Library or on your computer (Netflix, etc.)
September 7: Introduction

12: Ovid’s story of Echo and Narcissus
   ✷ written assignment due: 2 page analysis of one idea or phrase from Ovid’s story
14: Hollander (packet)

19: Levinas (handout), Blanchot (packet)
21: Ruhl, Eurydice

26: Freud (packet)
28: Winnicott (packet); Benjamin (packet)

October 3: Screen in class Spellbound, first half.
5: Kohut & Lacan (packet)

October 10: No class, Columbus Day Holiday
12: Screen in class Spellbound, second half.

17: “The Dead” Come to class prepared to apply a specific theory we’ve read to “The Dead”
19: Nouvet (packet)
   ✷ Midterm due on Friday, October 21

24: Lawrence (packet)
26: Sunset Boulevard

31: Mrs. Dalloway, first half
November 2: keep reading Mrs. Dalloway, Caruth (packet)

7: finish Mrs. Dalloway
9: Brison (packet)

14: Greenberg (packet) Ravishing of Lol Stein, first half
16: Ravishing of Lol Stein, second half

21: Morrison, Beloved, first half
23: No Class, Thanksgiving

28: Finish Beloved
30: Said

December 5: Forster, A Passage to India, first half
7: Passage to India, second half

12: Ta-Nehisi Coates, Between the World and Me
13: Legislative Day (make up class): review of course themes, catch up
14: wrap up & party   ✷ Final paper due, 5 pages