

HL 812 (GER-PE)—Imagining Imprisonment

Lecture: Thursday 4:30-7:30 LT24

Instructor Information

Module Coordinator: Dr. Brian Bergen-Aurand
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-3:30 or by appointment
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Module Description

In this course we will analyze the relationship between imagination and imprisonment. To do this, we will compare print and non-print representations of imprisonment—architectural digests, captivity narratives, concentration camp memoirs, internment poetry, penal records, prison blues, testimonials, criminology studies, newspaper exposés, online prison projects, and others—against a basic definition of imprisonment as “a lack of space and a surplus of time.” We will ask how these representations adhere to and / or challenge this definition.

Print Texts:

Judith A. Scheffler, ed. Wall Tappings: An International Anthology of Women’s Prison Writings 200 to the Present. (Feminist Press, Second Edition, 2003)

Primo Levi. Survival in Auschwitz. (Touchstone Books, 1995)

Manuel Puig. Kiss of the Spiderwoman: And Two Other Plays. (Norton, 1994)

Films:

Twelve Monkeys (USA, dir. Terry Gilliam, 1995)

Life is Beautiful (Italy, dir. Roberto Benigni, 1997)

Kiss of the Spiderwoman (Brazil/USA, dir. Hector Babenco, 1985)

Selected short films and excerpts

Course Assessment

Continual Assessment	50%
<u>Final Exam</u>	50%
	100%

All written assignments must be in MLA format.
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Essay Assignments

Essay guidelines will be provided.

Course Essay is due WEEK 7.

Final Exam

Exam specifics will be discussed later in the semester.

Plagiarism and collusion are not acceptable. Evidence of undocumented use of sources or unauthorized collaboration will incur heavy grade penalties and may result in failure of this module.

Module Schedule

Week	Topic	Screening	Reading
1	A lack of space and a surplus of time	SELECTED SHORTS	
2	Design and Detention I		Selections from Wall Tappings
3	Design and Detention II		Selections from <u>Wall Tappings</u>
4	Concentration and Internment I	Roberto Benigni, <u>Life is Beautiful</u>	
5	Chinese New Year	No Class Meeting	No Class Meeting
6	Concentration and Internment II		Primo Levi, <u>Survival in Auschwitz</u>
7	Concentration and Internment III		Primo Levi, <u>Survival in Auschwitz</u>
8	<i>RECESS</i>		

9	Dissent and Embodiment I		Manuel Puig, <u>Kiss of the Spiderwoman</u> (the play)
10	Dissent and Embodiment II		Manuel Puig, <u>Kiss of the Spiderwoman</u> (the play)
11	Dissent and Embodiment III	Hector Babenco, <u>Kiss of the Spiderwoman</u> (the film)	
12	Prison Projects I		Online Resources TBA
13	Prison Projects II		Online Resources TBA
14	REVIEW	SELECTED SHORTS	
15-17	<i>REVISION AND FINAL EXAMINATION</i>		