

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Felipe
Email: lfelipe@oxy.edu
Office Hrs: Fridays 1:30-3:30 pm
Location: Johnson Hall 109

CSP 59, Spring 2015
Class Meeting: MWF 11:45-12:40 pm
Location: Berkus Residence Hall 243B

From Revolution to Catastrophe: Contemporary Narratives of Upheaval

Course Description

The 20th and 21st centuries have seen and continue to see the reoccurring and often violent upheavals, which in the most fundamental ways have come to define who we are and how we interact with each other. These upheavals challenge the status quo and shift the seat of power in the effort to build better realities and while they are always fraught with hardship, this process can be a peaceful one. However, we must often bear witness to the catastrophic consequences that come with the aftermath of the revolutionary process: the displacement of thousands from their homes, the continued violence upon the innocent, and the collapse of economies that leave regions in turmoil for years to come. In the specter of these upheavals, how do we make sense of the devastation? How do we work through the trauma? How do we attempt to reclaim our humanity despite the brutality? These are just some of the questions this course will be grappling with as we explore films and literature set in places that have seen major upheavals, among them the U.S., Cuba, Iran, Algeria, and Japan. Together we will examine how people's lives are shaped by the catastrophic events that precede or follow revolutionary struggles, and consider the role of cultural production in representing these experiences.

Required Texts

Duras, Marguerite. *Hiroshima Mon Amour*. (Grove Press, 1994 Original: 1961)
Fanon, Frantz. *Wretched of the Earth*. (Grove Press, 2005 Original: 1961)
Freud, Sigmund. "Mourning and Melancholia" (1917) (PDF)
Satrapi, Marjane. *The Complete Persepolis*. (Knopf Doubleday, 2007)
Valdes, Zoe. *Yocandra in the Paradise of Nada*. (Arcade Publishing, 1997)
Yamashita, Karen Tei. *Tropic of Orange* (Coffee House Press, 1997)
Žižek, Slavoj. *Welcome to the Desert of the Real* (Verso, 2013; Original: 2002)

Required Film

Cuarón, Alfonso. *Children of Men*. (2006)
McTeigue, James. *V for Vendetta* (2005)
Pontecorvo, Gillo. *Battle of Algiers*. (1966)
Resnais, Alain. *Hiroshima Mon Amour*. (1959)

Grading

10% Mini Paper 1 (3-4 pages)
10% Mini Paper 2 (3-4 pages)
10% Research Paper Proposal (2-3 pages)
15% Bibliography and Outline (4-5 pages)
15% Research Paper Draft (7-9 pages)
20% Final Research Paper (10-12 pages)
5% Research Presentation
15% In-class participation and attendance

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offense. It can be defined as the representation of someone else's language or writing as your own. When you copy whole paragraphs or simply borrow key concepts without giving credit to the original source, you are plagiarizing. If you plagiarize, you will fail that assignment and be subject to disciplinary actions to be determined by the Dean of Students. When you use other materials to help enhance your own ideas, please make sure that you adequately cite your sources. For further information regarding Oxy's policy on plagiarism, view the college's policy outlined in the student handbook: <https://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/academic-ethics/academic-ethics>

Late Papers and Assignments

For every day that your paper is late, your score will drop by one-third of a letter grade (i.e. a B paper submitted two days after the deadline will become a C+). Homework assigned will not be accepted past the deadline unless you have an excused and properly documented absence.

Writing Resources

You may want to consult a writing tutor throughout the semester to further assist you in essay writing. I encourage you to use the Center for Academic Excellence on campus that is available to all students. You may also visit the Center online at: <http://departments.oxy.edu/cae/writing/>.

Office Hours

Office hours are there for your benefit. Please take advantage of them. I encourage you to come see me about your papers well in advance to avoid the pre-deadline rush. Please anticipate your needs and make your appointments with me at least one day in advance.

E-mail

I am accessible via e-mail *except* after 8pm and during the weekends. This means that if you have questions or concerns that need to be addressed before Monday's class, please let me know before the weekend. Also, I do not accept electronic copies of papers (and other assignments). Please make sure that you turn in a hard copy to me on the due date; otherwise the late paper policy will apply.

Class Etiquette

Come to class on time and ready to work. This means doing the required reading and actively participating during in-class discussions and group work. We will be dealing with some pretty controversial material over the course of the quarter. Remember to keep an open mind, not only as you read the text, but during your engagement with others in class as we discuss these texts. While I encourage you all to be honest in your considerations of the course materials, mutual respect is a crucial and necessary part of this class. Should you have any questions regarding what constitutes respectful classroom behavior, I would be happy to discuss this with you during office hours.

Course Schedule: From Revolution to Catastrophe***Unit One: Colonial Revolt**Week 1

Wed, 1/21

Introduction

Fri., 1/23

Reading: "Concerning Violence" from Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth* (pp. 1-21)Week 2

Mon., 1/26

Reading: "Concerning Violence" from Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth* (pp. 21- 62)

Wed., 1/28

Reading: "Grandeur and Weakness of Spontaneity" from Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth* (pp. 63-83)

Fri., 1/30

Reading: "Grandeur and Weakness of Spontaneity" from Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth* (pp. 83-96)

Assignment: Paper One Prompt

Week 3

Mon., 2/2

Writing Workshop: Writing with primary and secondary texts

Film Screening: *Battle of Algiers* at 6:00 pm. Location TBD.

Wed., 2/4

Discussion: *Battle of Algiers*

Fri., 2/6

Due: Mini Paper One Draft—Please bring a hard copy for Peer Review**Unit Two: Aftermath, Memory, Trauma**Week 4

Mon., 2/9

CSP Lecture: Kathryn Sikkink

Wed., 2/11

Discussion: *Battle of Algiers***Due: Mini Paper One—Please bring a stapled hard copy to class.****Film Screening: *Hiroshima Mon Amour* at 6:00 pm. Location TBD**

Fri., 2/13

Reading: Freud's Mourning and Melancholia (entire text)

Discussion: *Hiroshima Mon Amour*Week 5

Mon., 2/16

President's Day Holiday: No class

Wed., 2/18

In-Class Timed Writing Exercise

Assignment: Paper Two

Fri., 2/20

Reading: *Hiroshima Mon Amour* (entire text)Week 6

Mon., 2/23

Writing Workshop: Prospectus and Building a Bibliography

Wed., 2/25

Reading: Valdes's *Yocandra in the Paradise of Nada* (pp. 1-75)**Due: Mini Paper Two Draft—Please bring a hard copy for Peer Review**

Fri., 2/27

Reading: *Yocandra in the Paradise of Nada* (pp. 76-116)Week 7

Mon., 3/2

Reading: *Yocandra in the Paradise of Nada* (pp. 117-154)**Due: Mini Paper Two—Please bring a stapled hard copy to class.**

Assignment: Research Paper Prompt

Wed., 3/4

Reading: *Persepolis* (pp. 1-113)

Fri., 3/6 Reading: *Persepolis* (pp. 114-227)
Writing Workshop: Prospectus and Building a Bibliography Revisited

Week 8

Spring Break—No class.

Week 9

Mon., 3/16 Reading: *Persepolis* (pp. 228-341)
Wed., 3/18 Reading: “Introduction” from Žižek’s *Welcome to the Desert of the Real* (entire text)
Fri., 3/20 Discussion: “Introduction” from Žižek’s *Welcome to the Desert of the Real*
**Due: Research Paper Prospectus and Partial Annotated Bibliography—
Please bring a stapled hard copy to class.**

Unit Three: Imminent Catastrophes

Week 10

Mon., 3/23 CSP Lecture: E. Benjamin Skinner
Reading: Yamashita’s *Tropic of Orange* (pp. 3-79)
Wed., 3/25 Reading: Yamashita’s *Tropic of Orange* (pp. 80-118)
Fri., 3/27 Reading: Yamashita’s *Tropic of Orange* (pp.119-153)

Week 11

Mon., 3/30 Writing Workshop: Building Your Argument
Wed., 4/1 Reading: Yamashita’s *Tropic of Orange* (pp.154-210)
Film Screening: *V for Vendetta* at 6:00 pm. Location TBD.
Fri., 4/3 Reading: Yamashita’s *Tropic of Orange* (pp. 211-242)

Week 12

Mon., 4/6 Reading: Yamashita’s *Tropic of Orange* (pp. 243-26)
Film Screening: *Children of Men* at 6:00 pm. Location TBD.
Wed., 4/8 Discussion: *V for Vendetta*
Fri., 4/10 Discussion: *Children of Men*
Due: Research Paper Draft— Please bring a hard copy to class.

Week 13

Mon., 4/13 Research Paper Individual Consultations
Wed., 4/15 Research Paper Individual Consultations
Fri., 4/17 CSP Lecture: DarkMatter

Week 14

MWF, 4/20-24 Research Presentations

Week 15

Mon., 4/27 Research Presentations
Wed., 4/29 Closing/Review

**Research Papers are due on May 6th, 2015
on or before 12:00 pm in my mailbox in Johnson 109**