

The Literature of Invisibility

CANG 9152/9252 – C1+ Level – Teacher: Héloïse Lecomte

Course Description

In the early 21st century, invisibility has become a prominent field of cultural theory, as the metaphor is often used to challenge social and political marginalization. The purpose of this class is to investigate the role of literature in social and cultural discourses of invisibility. From ghost stories to unseen or neglected characters (e.g. the refugees and migrants described as 'living ghosts' by Esther Peeren, 2013), the literature of invisibility explores the limit between realism and the fantastic. Both the debilitating effects and the liberating potential of invisibility will be discussed in the class.

Objectives

- Providing students with the ability to discuss, research and write about complex ideas in written and spoken English
- Offering a theoretical overview of the expanding field of invisibility studies and their political potential
- Widening the range of analytical tools for the study of literary form

Requirements

A good command (C1 + level) of written and spoken English is required, as well as the willingness to participate and share your thoughts and ideas.

Assessment

The evaluation will consist of 50% for the continuous assessment (homework, midterm essay, attendance, participation), and 50% for the final exam.

