

Professor Elisabeth Camp*Office:* 426 Logan Hall*Office Hours:* Mondays 11-1, and by appointment*Email:* campe@sas.upenn.edu**Course Description**

In this course, we'll first consider a collection of philosophical views about what literature is and what it does to and for us. What makes literary language and form distinctive? In particular, how does it differ from philosophical language and form? Does this difference make literature especially apt, or limited, at expressing certain kinds of truths, or conveying certain types of knowledge—perhaps especially ethical ones? We'll then explore these issues in a more concrete way through a series of (mostly philosophical) comparisons between philosophical and literary texts.

The following texts are available at Penn Book Center (130 South 34th Street) and on reserve at Rosengarten (in Van Pelt):

Nietzsche: *The Birth of Tragedy* (required)Felski: *Uses of Literature* (required)Dadlez: *Mirrors to One another: Emotion and Value in Austen and Hume* (required)Hume: *A Treatise of Human Nature* (required)Austen: *Persuasion* (required)Euripides: *The Bacchae*Nussbaum: *Love's Knowledge: Essays in Philosophy and Literature*James: *The Ambassadors*Cavell: *In Quest of the Ordinary: Lines of Skepticism and Romanticism*Wittgenstein: *Philosophical Investigations*

In addition, the *Blackwell Companion to the Philosophy of Literature* is on reserve at Rosengarten and in the Philosophy Department Library.

All other readings (including all readings not included in the required texts) will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

- Weekly readings; attendance; and active, sustained participation—even for auditors.
- Lead discussion for one week. This does NOT mean presenting a summary of the readings! Rather, it means digesting the material sufficiently to identify the overarching topic under discussion and the most interesting claims or moves being made. Most importantly, it means raising questions *for discussion*: how do you want us to spend our time together in the seminar? You should also prepare a handout, which is *no more* than 2 pages long and which can easily be digested in class, to help coordinate discussion. You should also meet with me before class to plan the discussion.
- A substantial paper, 20-25 pages long. The paper should develop your own ideas about some of the material we've read in a way that's especially useful or engaging for you. Because this is a philosophy course, this means producing arguments toward a conclusion; though given the material, a wider range of styles than usual may be appropriate.

You should submit a tentative abstract by November 21st and meet with me before December 2nd. Papers are due by December 19th. I prefer an electronic version, so that I can type comments directly on the text.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

September 12: Introduction

September 19: Form and Feeling

Nietzsche: *The Birth of Tragedy* (including revised Preface)

Euripides: *The Bacchae*

September 26: Uses of Literature: Deanna Smith

Felski I: "Recognition"; "Enchantment"

October 3: Uses of Literature cont'd: Rosemary Avance

Felski II: "Knowledge"; "Shock"

October 10: Fall Break

October 17: Against Extraction: John Dyck

Brooks: "The Heresy of Paraphrase"

Posner: "Against Ethical Criticism"

Nabokov: "Good Readers and Good Writers"

October 24: Imaginative Learning through Literature and Philosophy: Lindsey Fiorelli

Green: "How and What We Can Learn from Fiction"

Camp: "Two Varieties of Literary Imagination"

["Perspectives in Imaginative Engagement with Fiction"]

["Metaphor and that Certain Je Ne Sais Quoi"]

Gendler: "Philosophical Thought Experiments, Intuitions, and Cognitive Equilibrium"

October 31: Ethical Learning from Fiction: David Barreto; Ben Bennett

James: "The Art of Fiction," Preface to *The Ambassadors*, "The Real Thing"

Nussbaum: "'Finely Aware and Richly Responsible': Literature and the Moral Imagination"

Nussbaum: "Perceptive Equilibrium: Literary Theory and Ethical Theory"

November 7: Sentiment and Sympathy: Katie Brennan

Dadlez, ch's 1-3

Austen: *Persuasion*

November 14: Sentiment and Sympathy cont'd: Jennifer Hayes

Dadlez, ch's 4-7

Hume: *Treatise of Human Nature* (excerpts)

November 21: Sentiment and Sympathy cont'd: Oona Saumell

Dadlez, ch's 8-14

November 28: Romanticism and Skepticism: Rob Willison

Cavell: "Being Odd, Getting Even"

Emerson: "Self-Reliance"

Poe: "The Imp of the Perverse"

December 5: Literary and Ordinary Language: Adam Croom

Ostas: "Wordsworth, Wittgenstein, and the Reconstruction of the Everyday"

Wittgenstein: *Philosophical Investigations* (excerpts)

Wordsworth: "We are Seven"