**Visual Narratives: Narrating The Inexpressible?**

Literature and Visuality, BMNAN11500A (Literature MA Modul 2)

**Instructor**: Reuss Gabriella PhD, [reuss.gabriella@btk.ppke.hu](mailto:reuss.gabriella@btk.ppke.hu)

**Office hour:** Thursday 12:30, Tárogató 040

**Venue**: Tárogató 126 B

**Absence**: you may skip 3 occasions

**Goal of the course**: to experience the sister branches of art with a taste of literature and also, to get acquainted with basic secondary materials on visuality

Regular weekly preparation is expected. Each class’ discussion will be lead and prompted by a student moderator who is responsible for giving talk time to each class member and initiates the discussion.

**In-class tasks**: prepare regularly and read each week’s assignment to be able to particioate in class discussions. Undertake to **moderate** **class discussion** on one occasion of your choice. **Motivate, lead, inspire discussion, give out practical tasks to deepen and/or challenge the understanding of the secondary material (e.g. use visual and textual input to prompt/inspire opinions, use both pair or group tasks, create a kahoot/quizlet to help learn concepts in a fun way, etc)** – this is part of the preparation for your written assignment.

**Home assignment:** Elaborate on the class discussion and both your secondary and primary source in a blogpost / or a video – **something publishable!** (wiki article, blogpost, videoessay, etc) :-)

**In-class test**: key concepts – see separate file

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| Class Discussion | Assignments |
| 09. 14. **Introduction to the course. *Six Shooter* (27 mins, 2014, dir. Martin McDonagh)** | - |
| 09.21. **Ut Pictura Poesis** - **Reading Pictures** (lecture)   * iconography * emblemata * symbols * typological symbolism | * bring in: a **selection of family photos/albums! It is compulsory to bring along 10 pictures** * read: **Susan Sontag: “On Photography”** (essay) |
| 09.28. **Narration in Photography: the Gaze and the Medium**  moderator: Jeffrey Baus | read: “Under the Urban Skin” by László Munteán  field trip!!! |
| 10.05. **Narration at/in the Exhibition, Museum, Lieux de mémoires: Memory and History**  moderator: Szakács Judit  field trip starts @ Madách tér / Örkény Színház, 9am | read: |
| 10.12. **Narration in Comics and Video Games:**  moderator: Puskás Orsolya | read:   * ***Maus I* by Art Spiegelman** (graphic novel) * **Orbán Katalin:** **Kép, képtelenség és trauma** (essay) |
| 10.19. **“My Father Bleeds History”. The Graphic Narrative and Trauma Literature. *Maus I* (1986) by Art Spiegelman**  moderator: Koncz Kriszti | read: *The Tragedy of Man* by Imre Madách  [*http://mek.oszk.hu/00800/00876/00876.pdf*](http://mek.oszk.hu/00800/00876/00876.pdf) |
| 10.26. **Narration with Puppets – discussion of theatre night**   * **Theatre night**: *The Tragedy of Man* by Imre Madách Oct 19th, 6pm @ Budapest Puppet Theatre   moderator: Kertész Dóri | - |
| 11.02. **autumn break** | read:   * libretto of ***Sweeney Todd* by Jeffrey Logan** * intro from **Linda and Michael Hutcheon: *The Art of Dying* (2004)** * **Almási Tóth András, etc** |
| 11.09. **Operatic narration: *Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street***  (116 mins, dir. Tim Burton, 2007)  moderator: Szaniszló Kitti | read: ***On the Art of the Theatre* (1911) by Edward Gordon Craig** |
| 11.16. **Narration with Puppets – Craig and the Übermarionett (and Sándor Hevesi’s criticism of it)**  moderator: Petrányi Böbe |  |
| 11. 23. **Cinematic narration in b&w** – ***1945*** (2017, dir. Ferenc Török), *Much Ado* (2013, dir. Joss Whedon) <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt5815492/> <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2094064/>  moderator: Túrós Heni |  |
| 11.30. **Gestures reconstructed? 18th century acting seen today**  moderator: Angelika Zhelthyseva  **Play Kahoot (instead of in-class test, cca. 30 mins)** | **submit home assignment by 12. 07 via email** |
| 12.07. **cancelled in exchange of your theatre night** | **-** |
| 12.14. **Conclusion**: mutual feedback, grades |  |

**Topics:**

**Basics of Visual Narration**

* cinematic devices.ppt
* Helen Fulton et al. (eds), “The Basics of narrative theory”, in *Narrative and Media*, CUP, 2005 (dropbox)
* editing – basic tool of narration
* Joe Wright, *Pride and Prejudice*, 2005
* visual cohesion: Pálfy György, *Final Cut*

**Narration in Photography; the Gaze**

* Susan Sontag, *Regarding the Pain of Others* (dropbox), *On Photography*, <http://writing.upenn.edu/library/Sontag-Susan-Photography.pdf>
* Walter Benjamin, *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*, <http://www.udel.edu/History/suisman/611_S05_webpage/benjamin-work-of-art.pdf>
* Roland Barthes, *Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography* (dropbox)
* Marshall McLuhan: *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man* (1964) (dropbox)

**Comics, Video Games**

* Dragon Zoltán: A szoftver és a film: a film helye a digitális kultúrában<http://apertura.hu/2009/tel/dragon>
* McCloud, *Understanding Comics, Making Comics* (dropbox) <http://www.ted.com/talks/scott_mccloud_on_comics.html>
* *The Rise of the American Comics Artist* (dropbox)
* Gibbons and Moore, *Watchmen*

**Narration at/in the Exhibition, Museum, Lieux de mémoires: Memory and History**

* Pierre Nora, *Between Memory and History*
* Susan A. Crane, *Memory Distortion in the Museum*
* Textúra 2017, Irodalom, képzőművészet, színház - <http://mng.hu/latogatas/textura-2017-kepzomuveszet-irodalom-szinhaz-122863>
* Munteán László: ‘Under the urban skin,’ in: Gárdos-Péter-Pikli-Vince, *Confrontations and interactions. Essays on Cultural Memory*, L’Harmattan, 2011, 43-57. 🡪”plaster archeology”

**Narrating Simultaneous (Real and Fictional) Pasts: *Ragtime***

* New York Times on Forman’s *Ragtime* (and *Hair*)
* E. Lusca, *Race as a Social Construct* (dropbox)
* Jan Assman: Collective Memory (pdf)
* E. L. Doctorow, *Ragtime* (dropbox)
* Heinrich Kleist, *Michael Kolhaas*

**Trauma Literature – Communal/Individual Memory**

* Munteán László: ‘Under the urban skin,’ in: Gárdos-Péter-Pikli-Vince, *Confrontations and interactions. Essays on Cultural Memory*, L’Harmattan, 2011, 43-57. 🡪”plaster archeology”
* Bán Zsófia
* <http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/why-you-should-read-w-g-sebald> (Dec 2011)
* Bényei Péter: ‘A közösségi trauma irodalmi reprezentációja’ 🡪 Jókai Mór: *Forradalmi és csataképek* c. művéről
* [Susi’s story](file:///C:\Videos\Susi's%20Story%20-%20The%20Official%20Trailer.mp4) – basis for Sebald’s novel
* Sebald, *Austerlitz* (2001) – oblique memory or disremembering? – photographs: pseudo-documentary
* Spiegelman, *Maus*

**Operatic narration**

* Burton, *Sweeney Todd*
* screenplay in dropbox
* watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FLeKvZdNs8&list=PL985B91095EA9E54D>
* music, lyrics, screenplay – how do they relate to one another?
* the opera as theatre
* Almási Tóth András, *Az opera egy zárt világ*, Typotex, 2008, <http://www.typotex.hu/author/458/almasi-toth_andras> (400-1300Ft)
* <http://fidelio.hu/zenes_szinhaz/magazin/hogy_mukodik_egy_opera_patchwork> )
* Linda and Michael Hutcheon, *Opera. The Art of Dying*, Harvard UP 2004, (dropbox)