

VISUAL NARRATIVES: NARRATING THE INEXPRESSIBLE?
Literature and Visuality, BMNAN1390000A (Literature MA Modul 2)

Instructor: Reuss Gabriella PhD, reuss.gabriella@btk.ppke.hu

Office hour: Monday 9-10am, Thursday 12:30-13:30, Tárogató 040

Venue: Tárogató 222

Absence: you may skip any 3 occasions - however, you are allowed to skip neither the theatre visit nor the field trip!

Goal of the course: The course is designed for 1st year MA/Eng.Lit students to *experience* the sister branches of art with a taste of literature and also, to get acquainted with basic secondary materials on visual narration.

In-class tasks: prepare regularly for classes and read each week's assignment to be able to participate in class discussions.

Presentation: sum up your reading of the assigned secondary source(s): motivate, lead, inspire group discussion in class (use visual and textual input to prompt/inspire opinions)

Home assignment: Elaborate on the class discussion, your primary and secondary sources in a blogpost / vlog / video essay /wiki article /etc - create something publishable! Due: **December 6th** via email.

Field trip in English on 11th October: The first half of the programme will be a walk in the Budapest ghetto on, a so-called IWalk, organized by the Zachor Foundation. We will leave from Dohány utca 2 / Synagogue, 8:30 (in the time slot of the class), then watch interviews with survivors (we'll have tablets) on the way and relate these clips to the particular locations. The second half of the programme is a 45-min discussion until 11:45 with tea/coffee at the Zachor Foundation office (Szent István krt 20).

In-class test (kahoot?): key concepts

Enjoy!

	Class Discussion	Assignments
1	09. 13. Introduction to the course. Basic concepts of storytelling. <i>Final Cut</i> (Pálfi György, 2012, 84 mins)	-
2	09.20. Ut Pictura Poesis - Reading Pictures (lecture) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iconography • emblemata • symbols • typological symbolism 	<u>bring in:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a selection of family photos/albums! It is compulsory to bring along 10 pictures <u>read:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Sontag: "On Photography" (essay)
3	09.27. Narration in Photography: the Gaze and the Medium	<u>read:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • László Munteán, "Under the Urban Skin" in <i>Confrontations and interactions. Essays on Cultural Memory</i>, eds. Gárdos, Péter, Pikli, Vince, L'Harmattan, 2011, 43-57. <u>present:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a place with special memories (private or public)
	09.29. szombat 5pm Bábszínház 7x - Mi a báb? 80 perces beszélgetés a Bábszínházban: amit soha nem mertél megkérdezni (16+) https://budapestbabszinhaz.hu/babszinhaz-7x-16/#	<u>optional programme</u>
4	10.04. Narration in Architecture - Lieux de mémoires: Memory and History <u>field trip!! Start at 8.30 @ the Synagogue, Dohány Street, ends at Szent István krt 20.at 11:45</u>	<u>read:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoltán Dragon, "A szoftver és a film: a film helye a digitális kultúrában", <i>Apertúra</i>, 2009, http://apertura.hu/2009/tel/dragon
5	10.11. Narration in Video Games: guest: Adél Vékási, PhD student	<u>read:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • libretto of <i>Sweeney Todd</i> by Jeffrey Logan • intro from Linda and Michael Hutcheon: <i>The Art of Dying</i> (2004)
6	10.18. Operatic narration: <i>Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street</i> (116 mins, dir. Tim	<u>read:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maus I</i> by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel) • Katalin Orbán, „Trauma and Visuality: Art

	Burton, 2007)	Spiegelman's <i>Maus I</i> and <i>In the Shadow of No Towers</i> ", <i>Representations</i> 57/1, Winter 2007, pp.57-89. http://orbankati.net/ok/irasok/orban_trauma_and_visuality.pdf
7	10.25. "My Father Bleeds History". The Graphic Narrative: <i>Maus I</i> (1986) by Art Spiegelman	
	10.27. Theatre night: <i>The Tempest</i> @ Budapest Puppet Theatre https://budapestbabszinhaz.hu/babszinhazeloadasok/a-vihar/	
8	11.01. autumn break	<u>read:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://babszinhaz.blog.hu/2018/05/31/igy_keszul_a_vihar • Margaret Williams, "The Death of 'The Puppet'?" in <i>Routledge Companion to Puppetry and Material Performance</i> eds. Posner, Orenstein, Bell, 2014, pp.18-29 (downloadable from here)
9	11.08. Narration with Puppets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of theatre night • Object Theatre Experiment 	<u>read:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gabriella. Reuss, The Genesis of Macready's Mythical <i>Lear</i> : the New Tragic <i>Lear</i>, according to his 1834 Promptbook, <i>Shakespeare en Devenir</i>, No.9, 2015, http://shakespeare.edel.univ-poitiers.fr/index.php?id=839
10	11.15 Narrating with Gestures - relation of stage business and text in British theatre culture (cf. Hungarian etc)	<u>read:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Fulton, „Film Narrative and Visual Cohesion”, in <i>Narrative and Media</i>, eds Fulton et al., CUP, 2005, pp. 108-122
11	11. 22. Narration in the Cinema <i>Stories we tell</i> (Sarah Polley, 2012, 108 mins)	
12	11.29. Revision of basic concepts In-class test/Kahoot	<u>submit</u> home assignment by 12. 06 via email
12	12.06. cancelled in exchange of your theatre night	-
14	12.13. Conclusion: mutual feedback	

Further readings:

Narration in Photography; the Gaze

- 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*

Lieux de mémoires: Memory and History

- Pierre Nora, *Between Memory and History*
- Susan A. Crane, *Memory Distortion in the Museum*

Trauma Literature - Communal/Individual Memory

- Sebald, *Austerlitz* (2001) - oblique memory or disremembering? - photographs: pseudo-documentary
- <http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/why-you-should-read-w-g-sebald> (Dec 2011)
- [Susi's story](#) - basis for Sebald's novel
- Bán Zsófia
- Orbán Katalin

Operatic narration

- Almási Tóth András, *Az opera egy zárt világ*, Typotex, 2008, http://fidelio.hu/zenes_szinhaz/magazin/hogy_mukodik_egy_opera_patchwork)
- Linda and Michael Hutcheon, *Opera. The Art of Dying*, Harvard UP 2004.
- Laurel E. Zeiss, „The Dramaturgy of the Opera”, in the *Cambridge Companion to Opera Studies*, ed. Nicholas Till, 2012, pp. 179-201.