

LINGUISTICS AND VERBAL ART: FORMS OF CONTENT (0.5 CU, SPRING TERM)

The course aims to increase students' awareness and understanding of formal aspects of the contentual potential of (artistic) texts, to repetition, parallelism, and other material deployment of pattern in texts, particularly ones with dense, clear, or subtle patternings of these.

The focus is on forms of content, specifically: the deployment of ambiguity (plurisignation), metaphor-and-metonymy, irony, and other tropes in (artistic) texts, including semantic repetition and parallelism, paronymy, and sound-symbolism. On successful completion, students should be able to distinguish a wide range of kinds of patterning of signification in texts, and thereby to classify and evaluate such texts on a more sound basis.

Title: LINGUISTICS AND VERBAL ART: FORMS OF CONTENT

Course Code: SEEE2007

Course-unit value: 0.5 cu

Availability: most years

Open to: all students with permission of the instructor

Course leader: Daniel Abondolo

Other participants: Research students, as available

Aims:

1. Heightened awareness of contentual features of (artistic) texts
2. Increased facility with terms enabling clear description of contentual linguistic phenomena
3. Meta-awareness of the place of literature in the context of verbal art

Objectives:

On successful completion, students should be able to distinguish a wide range of kinds of patterning of signification in texts, and thereby to classify and evaluate such texts on a more sound basis.

Teaching & Learning Methods:

Close reading in class of a small number of short texts in their original languages. This kind of reading is achieved by morpheme-by-morpheme glosses and detailed semantic and cultural notes and suggestions for further (especially secondary) reading. The outcomes are demonstrated in class discussions, written exercises, and in the final examination.

Course-Unit Outline Form

Number of Hours: 20

Assessment:

Coursework: practice exercises and short essays

Examination: two-hour unseen examination

AFFILIATE STUDENTS:

First Semester only:

Second Semester only: