

ENGL 693D—SPECIAL TOPICS: STUDIES IN THE SUBLIME
2 SUMMER 2019
MR 1:30-4:20 PM
G10 Colson Hall

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TEXTS

- Edmund Burke, *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful*, 2nd ed., ed. Paul Guyer (Oxford)
- Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment*, trans. Werner Pluhar (Hackett)
- Jamaica Kincaid, *The Autobiography of My Mother* (FSG)
- Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*, ed. Mark Hussey (Houghton Mifflin)
- Other readings available through eCampus

REQUIREMENTS

- One (1) oral presentation on an assigned text of the day. I would like you to speak for roughly 10-15 minutes on some *specific* aspect of the text that interests you, and to lead the ensuing discussion.
- Research paper, approx. 10 pp., preferably revisable as a conference presentation. As an alternative, you may submit a creative project or a public-humanities initiative of a comparable scope. A proposal (approx. 1-2 pp.) is due at the end of Week 3; a rough draft is due at the beginning of Week 6; we will workshop the drafts in class; the final revision is due at the end of Week 6.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS (* = materials available through eCampus)

IA	M	6/24	Introduction
IB	R	6/27	Edmund Burke, <i>Philosophical Enquiry</i>
IIA	M	7/1	Immanuel Kant, <i>Critique of Judgment</i> §23-42 (pp. 97-170) Jennifer
IIB	W	7/3	Barnett Newman, selected visual works* Jean-François Lyotard, from <i>The Inhuman</i> * Rachel Jacques Ranciere, from <i>Dissensus</i> *
IIIA	M	7/8	William Wordsworth, <i>The Prelude</i> (1799)* Vince
IIIB	R	7/11	Timothy Morton, from <i>Hyperobjects</i> * April
	F	7/12	Proposal for research project due to eCampus 4 PM
IVA	M	7/15	Lisa Jevbratt, <i>1:1</i> (web project)* Anna Lev Manovich, “Data Visualization as New Abstraction and Anti-Sublime”* Lisa Jevbratt, “The Prospect of the Sublime in Data Visualizations”* Sianne Ngai, from <i>Ugly Feelings</i> * Nicole Annie Dorsen, “The Sublime and the Digital Landscape”*
IVB	R	7/18	Joanna Zylynska, from <i>On Spiders, Cyborgs and Being Scared</i> * Addie

VA	M	7/22	Virginia Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i> Matt Erin Johns Speese, from <i>Gender and the Intersubjective Sublime</i> * Visit from Erin Johns Speese, Duquesne University
VB	R	7/25	Jamaica Kincaid, <i>The Autobiography of My Mother</i> Tamer, Kenneth
VIA	M	7/29	Rough draft of paper due 9 AM—workshop in class
VIB	R	8/1	Werner Herzog, <i>Lessons of Darkness</i> (film)* Werner Herzog, “Minnesota Declaration” and supplement* Werner Herzog, “On the Absolute, the Sublime, and Ecstatic Truth” Sarah
	Su	8/4	Final draft of paper due to eCampus 12 noon

SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Foundations

- De Bolla, Peter. *The Discourse of the Sublime: Readings in History, Aesthetics, and the Subject*. Blackwell, 1989.
- De Man, Paul. *Aesthetic Ideology*. U of Minnesota P, 1996.
- Derrida, Jacques. *The Truth in Painting*. Translated by Geoff Bennington and Ian McLeod. U of Chicago P, 1987.
- Ferguson, Frances. *Solitude and the Sublime: Romanticism and the Aesthetics of Individuation*. Routledge, 1992.
- Freeman, Barbara Clare. *The Feminine Sublime: Gender and Excess in Women’s Fiction*. U of California P, 1995.
- Jameson, Frederic. *Postmodernism, or The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*. Duke UP, 1991.
- Kristeva, Julia. *Powers of Horror: An Essay on Abjection*. Translated by Leon Roudiez. Columbia UP, 1982.
- Monk, Samuel Holt. *The Sublime: A Study of Critical Theories in XVIII-Century England*. MLA, 1935.
- Nicholson, Marjorie Hope. *Mountain Gloom and Mountain Glory: The Development of the Aesthetics of the Infinite*. Cornell UP, 1959.
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Overviews

- Battersby, Christine. *The Sublime, Terror, and Human Difference*. Routledge, 2007.
- Gigante, Denise. *Taste: A Literary History*. Yale UP, 2005.
- Shaw, Philip. *The Sublime*. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2017.

Collections

- The Possibility of the Sublime: Aesthetic Exchanges*. Edited by Lars Aagaard-Mogensen. Cambridge Scholars, 2017.
- The Sublime: from Antiquity to the Present*. Edited by Timothy Costelloe. Cambridge UP, 2012.
- The Sublime and Education*. Edited by J. Jennifer Jones, Romantic Circles Praxis Series, 2010, https://romantic-circles.org/praxis/sublime_education/index.html.
- The Sublime Now*. Edited by Luke White and Claire Pajaczkowska. Cambridge Scholars, 2009.
- The Sublime Today: Contemporary Readings in the Aesthetic*. Edited by Gillian B. Pierce. Cambridge Scholars, 2012.

Through a Glass Darkly: Suffering, the Sacred, and the Sublime in Literature and Theory. Edited by Holly Faith Nelson, Lynn R. Szabo, and Jens Zimmermann. Wilfrid Laurier UP, 2010.

Aesthetics

- Brady, Emily. *The Sublime in Modern Philosophy: Aesthetics, Ethics, and Nature.* Cambridge UP, 2014.
- Hogan, Patrick. *Beauty and Sublimity: A Cognitive Aesthetics of Literature and the Arts.* Cambridge UP, 2016.
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- Rasula, Jed. *History of a Shiver: The Sublime Impudence of Modernism.* Oxford UP, 2016.
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- Slocombe, Will. *Nihilism and the Sublime Postmodern: The (Hi)story of a Difficult Relationship from Romanticism to Postmodernism.* Routledge, 2006.
- Zepke, Stephen. *Sublime Art: Toward an Aesthetics of the Future.* Edinburgh UP, 2017.

Ecology

- Colley, Ann C. *Victorians in the Mountains: Sinking the Sublime.* Ashgate, 2010.
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- Wilson, Eric. *Emerson's Sublime Science.* Macmillan, 1999.

Politics

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- Leggatt, Matthew. *Cultural and Political Nostalgia in the Age of Terror: The Melancholic Sublime.* Routledge, 2018.
- Mann, Bonnie. *Women's Liberation and the Sublime: Feminism, Postmodernism, Environment.* Oxford UP, 2006.
- Outka, Paul. *Race and Nature from Transcendentalism to the Harlem Renaissance.* Palgrave, 2008.
- Shapiro, Michael. *The Political Sublime.* Duke UP, 2018.

Technology

- Liu, Alan. *Local Transcendence: Essays on Postmodern Historicism and the Database.* U of Chicago P, 2008.
- Mosco, Vincent. *The Digital Sublime: Myth, Power, and Cyberspace.* MIT P, 2004.
- Tabbi, Joseph. *Postmodern Sublime: Technology and American Writing from Mailer to Cyberpunk.* Cornell UP, 1995.