

**COL 241 - Fall 2007 – College of Letters - Sophomore Colloquium**  
**Classroom: Butterfield C 314 / Time: M-W: 1:10-2:30pm**

<b><u>Instructors:</u></b>	Ethan Kleinberg	Typhaine Leservot
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**Course description: Religion and Secularism in 20<sup>th</sup> c. Europe**

The Sophomore Colloquium is the first of a series of five that constitutes the core of the COL program. It is designed to explore the literature, history, and philosophy of 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe around a chosen theme. This semester, we will focus on religion and secularism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. From the 1905 separation of Church and State, to the 1989-2004 Islamic Veil Affair that mark France at the beginning and end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, European letters have expressed the issues of religion and secularism (such as the separation of Church/State, the relationship between Religion and Art, and Religion and Justice) in particular and fascinating ways. We will read and discuss how and what 20<sup>th</sup> c. European literature and philosophy have had to say about the relationship between Religion and Secularism in light of major historical events.

PAPERS: Aside from reading and taking part in class discussions, you will be required to write three papers on the topic of your choice to explore further an issue raised by our readings and class discussions. You should turn in two (2) copies of each paper to be independently reviewed and evaluated by each instructor. **Late papers will not be accepted.** There is no final examination for this class. Thorough written evaluations are offered as a substitute for letter grades.

**READINGS:**

--Course Pack readings are indicated CP in the syllabus. The Course Pack for the course is available for purchase ONLINE at <pipmid.com>. Click on "Course Books" (under Wes logo), then click on "Wesleyan Course Readers", scroll down and select COL 241 (please note: courses are not listed in alphabetical order on their website), and use your credit card.

--All other readings are available for purchase at the campus bookstore.

**Syllabus:**

September 5: Sigmund Freud, *The Future of an Illusion* (1927)

September 10: Fyodor Dostoiévsky, *Notes from Underground* (1864)

September 12: W.B. Yeats, "The Second Coming" 1917; Matthew Arnold, "Dover beach" (1851)  
[CP]

September 17: Franz Kafka, *The Hunger artist* [CP]

September 19: Franz Kafka, *Before the Law* [CP]

September 24: Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925)

September 26: Céline, *Journey till the end of the night* (1932)

October 1: Céline, *Journey till the end of the night* (1932)

October 3: Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction", "Theses on

History" [CP] / Picasso, *Guernica* (1936) [ONLINE]

October 8: T.S. Eliot, "The Dry Salvages" & "The Wasteland" [CP]. **PAPER 1 DUE**

October 10: Elie Wiesel, *Night* (1958)

October 15: FALL BREAK

October 17: Ignazio Silone, *Bread and Wine* (1936)

October 22: Sartre, *Existentialism is a Humanism* (1970)

October 24: De Beauvoir, Simone. *Ethics of Ambiguity* (1948)

October 29: Camus, *The Plague* (1948)

October 31: Camus, *The Plague*

November 5: Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* (1949)

November 7: Milan Kundera, *The Joke* (1968). **PAPER 2 DUE**

November 12: Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (Selections TBA)

November 14: Assia Djebar, *Fantasia: An Algerian Cavalcade* (1985) [CP] (Selections TBA)

November 19: Michel Foucault, "The End of Man" in *The Order of Things* [CP];

WATCH: Jorgen Leth, *The Perfect Human* (1967, 10mn) in Lars Von Trier's *The Five Obstructions* (2003)

November 21: THANKSGIVING RECESS

November 26: Barthes, Roland. *Mythologies* (1957)

November 28: Arendt, Hannah. *Between Past and Future* (1954) (Selections TBA)

December 3: Redonnet, Marie. *Forever Valley* (1987)

December 5: Reading TBA

December 10: Juan Goytisolo, *State of Siege* (1995)

**PAPER 3: due date to be discussed.**