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

Instructors: Ethan Kleinberg Typhaine Leservot
Office: Butterfield C (Director's office) Butterfield C 512b
Office hours: TBA M (COL) 11am-12pm / W (RLL) 9-10am
Email: ekleinberg@wesleyan.edu tleservot@wesleyan.edu

Course description: Religion and Secularism in 20th 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 20th century Europe around a chosen theme. This semester, we will focus on religion and secularism in the 20th 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 20th 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 20th 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 Dostoievsky, 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)
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 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];
November 21: THANKSGIVING RECESS

November 26: Barthes, Roland. Mythologies (1957)

December 3: Redonnet, Marie. Forever Valley (1987)
December 5: Reading TBA

PAPER 3: due date to be discussed.