

Yale Summer Session B, 2017, Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-11:15am
GMST S190/LITR S311/HUMS S221: "The Logic of Dreams"

Professor: Paul North

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Course Description

One third of your life is spent asleep, and the life of sleep is dreams. And yet the images, sounds, and language of waking life almost totally dominates discussions of human goals, motivations, and meaningfulness. The last century began with a different dream: that dreams, rightly understood, would give us an unprecedented view of the hidden objectives of human behavior. "The interpretation of dreams is the royal road to a knowledge of the unconscious activities of the mind," Freud wrote at the turn of the century. This seminar will be a discussion about dreams and an inquiry into what they may still mean, more than one hundred years later. We will take our departure from a careful reading of Freud's 1899 *Interpretation of Dreams*, which makes huge claims for the importance and meaning of dreams and proposes methods for their interpretation. Critiques and extensions of Freud's theory will point up its strengths and limitations. Throughout the seminar we will read literature and watch films in which dreams play a central role. Students are expected to keep a dream journal to record and analyze their own dreams.

Schedule (subject to revision)

7/3 Introduction to Topic

7/5 Homeric *Iliad*; Hebrew Bible, Genesis 37-45; Aristotle, *On Dreams*

7/7 Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams* (1899): Prefaces 1-8, "II. The Method of Interpreting Dreams," "III. A Dream is the Fulfillment of a Wish," "IV. Distortion in Dreams"

7/10 Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams* (1899), "VI. The Dream-Work (A-D + I "Secondary Revision")"

7/12 Film: Hitchcock, *Spellbound* (1945)

7/14 Havelock Ellis, "The Logic of Dreams" (1910), Freud, "A Metapsychological Supplement to the Theory of Dreams" (1917); Bertram Lewin, "Inferences from the Dream Screen" (1948)

7/17 Film: Zhou Sun, *Zhou Yu's Train* (2002); **First Short Paper Due**

7/19 Descartes, *Meditations*

7/21 Film: Richard Linklater, *Waking Life* (2001)

7/24 Calderon de la Barca, *Life Is a Dream*; **Second Short Paper Due**

7/26 Walter Benjamin, "Dream Kitsch"; Andre Breton, *Manifesto of Surrealism* (1924)

7/28 Film: Satoshi Kan, *Paprika* (2006)

7/31 Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Kubla Khan"; Jorge Luis Borges; "Coleridge's Dream"

8/2 Gottesmann, "The Development of the Science of Dreaming"; Schredl, "Characteristics and Contents of Dreams"; Kahn and Gover, "Consciousness in Dreams"

8/4 **Final Exam (1 hour)**

Films

Films can be streamed in the “media gallery” on classes v.2 (classesv2.yale.edu) and must be watched before the class session in which they are to be discussed.

Readings will be available as PDFs on the classesv2 website.

Coursework

Students in this course will be required to keep a private dream journal throughout the semester, which may require making adjustments to sleeping habits. Dream journals will be checked each Friday. Beyond this important work, other more public work for the course will include two papers and a final exam. Joining the conversation in class is also an important part of your experience and of your grade.

Grades

Attendance	Mandatory, see Summer School policy. No absences allowed.
Participation	20%
Dream Journal	10%
2 Short Papers (4-5 pages)	30%
Final Exam	40%

Please note: cell phones must be powered off during class time and wireless connections on laptops and tablets must be disabled.