

**The Logic of Dreams**  
GMST S190/LITR S311/HUMS S221:

Yale Summer Session B, 2018, Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-11:15am  
Professor: Paul North  
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Office hours: Wednesday, 11:30-12:30

**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)

7/2 Introduction to Topic

**Ancient Perspectives**

7/4 Homeric *Iliad*; *Hebrew Bible*, Genesis 37-45; Aristotle, *On Dreams*

**Interpretation of Dreams**

7/6 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”

7/9 Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams* (1899), “VI. The Dream-Work (A-D + I “Secondary Revision”)”

**Critiques of Freud**

7/11 Film: Hitchcock, *Spellbound* (1945)

7/13 Jung. *Dreams*, selections

**Dream and Reality**

7/16 Film: Zhou Sun, *Zhou Yu’s Train* (2002); **First Short Paper Due**

7/18 Descartes, *Meditations*

## **Dreaming and Truth**

7/20 Film: Richard Linklater, *Waking Life* (2001)

7/23 Calderon de la Barca, *Life Is a Dream*; **Second Short Paper Due**

## **Dreaming and the Past**

7/25 Walter Benjamin, “Dream Kitsch”; Andre Breton, *Manifesto of Surrealism* (1924), George Perec, *la boutique obscure*

7/27 Film: Satoshi Kan, *Paprika* (2006)

## **Imagination in Dreams**

7/30 Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “Kubla Khan”; Jorge Luis Borges; “Coleridge's Dream”

## **Science of Dreams?**

8/1 Domhoff, Intro, Ch. 1-3, 6

8/3 Gottesmann, “The Development of the Science of Dreaming”; Schredl, “Characteristics and Contents of Dreams”; Kahn and Gover, “Consciousness in Dreams”

## **Films**

Films can be streamed on the Canvas site and must be watched before the class session in which they are to be discussed.

**Books** can be purchased at: Yale Bookstore.

Calderón de la Barca, *Life is a Dream*. Penguin, 2006. ISBN: 9780143104827

Descartes, *Meditations*. Cambridge UP, 1996. ISBN: 9780521558181

Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams*. Oxford, 2008. ISBN: 9780199537587

Jung. *Dreams*. Princeton UP, 2010. ISBN: 9780691150482

Perec. *la boutique obscure*. Melville House, 2013. ISBN: 9781612191751

Other readings will be available as PDFs on the classesv2 website.

## **Policy on Editions (please read)**

These days it is easy to find a free version of a literary or theoretical text. Just because it is easy, doesn't mean you should do it! The texts listed below, with one or two exceptions, have been carefully edited with reference to manuscripts and previous editions, by editors who are familiar with a host of textual and interpretive problems, so that they can produce a more trustworthy text for reading or study. That said, these versions are certainly more expensive than \$0.00. So, where your budget allows, please—please—buy the versions listed below. This also makes it much more likely that we can find our place in the texts together when we are talking about them.

## **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%
1 Protocol	10%
2 Short Papers (3-5 pages)	20%
Final paper (8-10 pages)	40%

## **Academic Honesty**

Any work you submit in this class is understood by you and by the instructor to be your own original work and no one else's. You may want to include in your text some words or ideas written by others, but you may do so only with the proper attribution. This means that you openly and obviously mark the words or ideas of others as taken from their work, whether they be another's exact words or a paraphrase of their text or a key idea taken from them. It also means that you fully identify the original source in the proper place in your paper, in parentheses or footnotes, and if necessary in a bibliography as well. Submitting another's work as your own without proper attribution carries serious consequences. Yale's policy on academic honesty can be found here:

<http://catalog.yale.edu/first-year-student-handbook/academic-information/introduction-undergraduate-education/academic-honesty/>.

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