

BTP2BR_T_42, PhD course
Care in Literature and Film
Thu. 8.00—9.40
Lecture Hall III

Ureczky Eszter
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The aim of the course is to introduce students to the field of care ethics and its applicability in cultural studies, with special attention to literary and filmic analyses. The class discussions will focus on the history of care in Western culture (the genealogy of the notions of care and cure as well as caritas), the current crisis of care, religious, sociological, gender-based, and biopolitical approaches to both home and institutional care. The course will also rely on the fields of ageing studies and disability studies, and thus will serve a general awareness-raising purpose as well.

REQUIREMENTS:

Presence at classes: **no more than three absences are allowed.** In the case of a longer absence (either due to illness, or official leave), the tutor and the student will come to an agreement of how to solve the problem.

Assigned reading: The seminar format and the reading requirements suppose that the assigned texts are read/viewed for the classes. Tests on the assigned readings can be expected at each seminar (plot-related questions in the case of fiction and film). The result of these tests contributes to the seminar grade (“minor tests”: **10%**). **If you fail more than three such tests, your seminar is a failure** (the grade is a one). You’ll be granted, though, one chance to make up for the failure of these minor tests as agreed with your course tutor.

Participation in classroom discussions: the student is expected to take part in classroom discussions, and this activity contributes to the final seminar grades by **20%** of the overall achievement. (The reader’s journal can be of great help in this respect.)

Presentation: every student will give a short presentation (10-15 minutes or so) on a theoretical text related to one of the discussed topics, chosen by the student. If you do not want to present on the text indicated in the syllabus, please let me know, you can also work with a different source. The presenter has to prepare a carefully edited **handout and ppt** for the group. The presentation **cannot be completely read out**, the student can of course check his/her notes while presenting. The student **has to consult with the instructor** one week before the presentation and show her the handout (**20%**).

Endterm test: an objective test on the works discussed during the term (**50%**). The test must be written at the time scheduled in the syllabus. Failing to do so will count as course failure, and only one re-sit test will be scheduled to make up for the failure. The test will have a **pass limit** (60%): failing the test will count as course failure, and **only one re-sit test** will be scheduled to make up for the failure.

Students should be aware that their English proficiency also contributes to their grade.

Grading Policy

Course components	
minor tests	10%
presentation	20%
classroom discussion	20%
objective test	50%
total	100%

Grades	
87-100%	5
75-86%	4
63-74%	3
51-62%	2
0-50 %	1

TEXTS and FILMS: available in the e-learning system.

Week	Date	Topic
1	10/02	<p>Introduction: care ethics, the caring relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Fundamentals of Caring</i> (Rob Burnett, 2016) <p><u>Presentations:</u> Madeleine, Bunting, “The Invisible Heart,” <i>Labours of Love: The Crisis of Care</i>, Granta, 2021: 15-37. Noddings, Nel, “The Caring Relation,” <i>The Maternal Factor: Two Paths to Morality</i>, U of California P, 2010: 33-66.</p>
2	17/02	<p>Institutional care: the crisis of care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John McGregor: <i>Even the Dogs</i> (2010) <p><u>Presentation:</u> Misztal, Barbara A., “Vulnerability to Adverse Events,” <i>Vulnerability: In Search of Strategies for a Less Vulnerable Social Life</i>, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011: 15-28.</p>
3	24/02	<p>Caring for the past: the ethics and law of remembering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holocaust and post-truth: <i>Denial</i> (Mick Jackson, 2016) <p><u>Presentation:</u> Davis, Todd F. and Kenneth Womack, “The List Is Life: <i>Schindler’s List</i> as Ethical Construct,” <i>Mapping the Ethical Turn: A Reader in Ethics, Culture, and Literary Theory</i>, eds. Todd F. Davis, Kenneth Womack, University Press of Virginia, 2001: 151-160.</p>
4	03/03	<p>Citizenship, personhood, migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Unknown Girl</i> (Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, 2016) <p><u>Presentation:</u> Kunow, Rüdiger, “Another Kind of Intimacy: Care as Transnational and Transcultural Relationship,” <i>Age, Culture, Humanities</i>, Issue 2, 329-335.</p>
5	10/03	<p>Child abuse, migration, precarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Polisse</i> (Maïwenn, 2011) <p><u>Presentation:</u></p>

		Held, Virginia, "Power, Care, and the Reach of Law," <i>The Ethics of Care: Personal, Political, and Global</i> , Oxford UP, 2006: 138-154.
6	17/03	<p>Kin care, home care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jodi Picoult: <i>My Sister's Keeper</i> (2004) <p><u>Presentation:</u></p> <p>Dragojlovic, Ana and Alex Broom, "Who's suffering?: Professional care and private suffering," <i>Bodies and Suffering: Emotions and Relations of Care</i>, eds. Ana Dragojlovic and Alex Broom, Routledge, 2018: 21-42.</p>
7	24/03	<p>Disability, self-identity, narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. M. Coetzee: <i>Slow Man</i> (2005) <p><u>Presentation:</u></p> <p>Arne De Boever, "J. M. Coetzee's Slow Man as »a Biologico-Literary Experiment«," <i>Narrative Care: Biopolitics and the Novel</i>, Bloomsbury, 2013: 27-58.</p>
8	31/03	No class (consultation week)
9	07/04	<p>Old age care, ageism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I Care a Lot</i> (J Blakeson, 2020) <p><u>Presentation:</u></p> <p>Fraser, Nancy, "Contradictions of Capital and Care," <i>New Left Review</i>, July-August 2016: 99-117.</p>
10	14/04	<p>Dementia, end-of-life decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supernova</i> (Harry Macqueen, 2020) and Giorgio Pressburger's „The Law of the White Spaces” (1989) <p><u>Presentation:</u></p> <p>Feder Kittay, Eva, "The Ethics of Care, Dependence, and Disability," <i>Ratio Juris</i>, 24.1, March 2011: 49–58.</p>
11	21/04	<p>Self-care, femininity, mothering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Lost Daughter</i> (Maggie Gyllenhaal, 2021) and Martin Amis: "Heavy Water" <p><u>Presentations:</u></p> <p>Kremer, Monique, "Cinderella and Snow White Are Fairy Tales: Linking Care and Citizenship," <i>How Welfare States Care: Culture, Gender, and Parenting in Europe</i>, Amsterdam UP, 2007: 27-44.</p> <p>Slote, Michael, "Autonomy and Empathy," <i>The Ethics of Care and Empathy</i>, Routledge, 2007: 55-66.</p>
12	28/04	End-term test