

## **PL 205: The Gaze Preliminary Syllabus**

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Katalin Makkai  
Course times: Monday and Wednesday 10:45-12:15  
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Office hours: TBA  
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### **Course description**

This course explores a range of ways in which human relationships—with each other, with society at large, with the world in which we live—have been conceived as structured in terms of a “gaze” or “look”. We begin with the idea of the human being as (in part) constituted by a need, or desire, for recognition in the eyes of another. We then turn to consider analyses and critiques of modern Western society as based on a pernicious culture of seeing, drawing from work in philosophy, cultural criticism, feminist theory, psychoanalysis, film, and fiction.

### **Texts**

All readings will be provided electronically via Google Classrooms. A [printout](#) of the reading must be brought to the class for which it is assigned.

### **Electronic devices**

Students may not use any electronic devices (laptop, tablet, mobile phone) in the classroom, unless a relevant accommodation letter has been issued.

### **Requirements**

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Bard College Berlin expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III: Academic Misconduct.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at all classes is expected. More than two absences (that is, absences from two sessions of 90 minutes) will affect the final course grade. The two “free” absences are meant for minor illness, unavoidable appointments or travel, etc. For regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence, please consult the Student Handbook.

Per BCB policy, a student who misses 30% or more of class meetings cannot receive a passing grade for the course.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

##### **Participation**

Each student is expected to arrive to class on time and prepared. Being prepared means: having carefully read the assigned texts in the assigned editions, bringing a print (=non-electronic) copy to class along with writing materials, and being ready to initiate and to

contribute to seminar discussion. Repeated and/or significant lateness will affect the final course grade, as will lack of preparation.

Contributions to seminar discussion should be productive as well as regular, and should engage responsively and respectfully with the contributions of others.

### **Written assignments**

Midterm essay (2000-2500 words), due Monday March 16

Final essay (3000-3500 words), due Friday May 15

### **Policy on late submission of papers**

From the Student Handbook on the submission of essays:

*“Essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late.*

*Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.”*

### **Grade breakdown**

Participation      30%

Midterm essay    30%

Final essay        40%

## **Schedule for Weeks 1 & 2**

### **Week 1**

M Jan 27      Introduction [no assigned reading]

W Jan 29      Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men* or *Second Discourse*, Part I including Note XV, in *The Discourses and Other Early Political Writings*, pp. 134-160 and p. 218

### **Week 2**

M Feb 3      Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Part II, in *The Discourses and Other Early Political Writings*, pp. 161-188

W Feb 5      G. W. F. Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, §§166-177