

The Institute for Linguistics, Image and Text (LIT)

June 5-30, 2018

Overview

Our program contains four parts. The first part of LIT begins by developing techniques for analyzing meaning at the discourse level (i.e. when two or more sentences are involved). We will learn a theory of discourse coherence which synthesizes research in linguistics, literature, philosophy and artificial intelligence. This part of the course will be reading intensive: we will not only read primary research, but also read and analyze selected poems, short stories and a novella.

The second part of LIT will be centered around reading and analyzing a graphic novel, *Hugo Cabret*, which exemplifies an intriguing connection between words and visual art. We will follow up this exploration with class field trips to museums in Boston and New York City. We will also have a guest lecture from Laura Sizer (Associate Professor of Philosophy at Hampshire), who will discuss narrative in tattoo art.

In the third part of LIT, we will apply discourse coherence theory to film. This will involve watching and analyzing selected films, including one at Amherst Cinema. We will also have a guest lecture by Polina Barskova (Associate Professor of Russian Literature at Hampshire), who will discuss the work of Sergei Eisenstein – the pioneer of montage theory and practice.

In the fourth and final part of LIT, students will have the opportunity to present their work in a professional conference setting, in which they will create and analyze their own narrative art (involving text and image) in terms of the theory taught in the program, while applying acquired skills of effective presentation.

Faculty

Daniel Altshuler (dgaCS@hampshire.edu)

Visiting Faculty

- Polina Barskova (Hampshire College, School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies)
- Laura Sizer (Hampshire College, School of Cognitive Science)

Staff

Kaden Holladay (kholladay@umass.edu)

Anita Fuentes Gutierrez (anitafuentes.6@gmail.com)

Schedule

Week 1

- Philosophy of mind and philosophy of literature
- Principles of discourse coherence
- Anaphora
 - *Leading questions:* How are ideas associated and how does this process manifest in spoken and written discourse?

Week 2

- Discourse structure
- Image and text
- Fieldtrip to Boston
 - *Leading questions:* How do we analyze long written texts with intricate structure and how do images conspire with such texts to produce meaning?

Week 3

- Narrative progression
- Fieldtrip to New York
- Film
 - *Leading questions:* What are the strategies used to advance a narrative in literature? How do they differ in the domain of film?

Week 4

- Fieldtrip to Amherst Cinema
- Final projects
 - *Goal:* Create, analyze and present your own narrative art (involving text and image) in terms of discourse coherence theory.