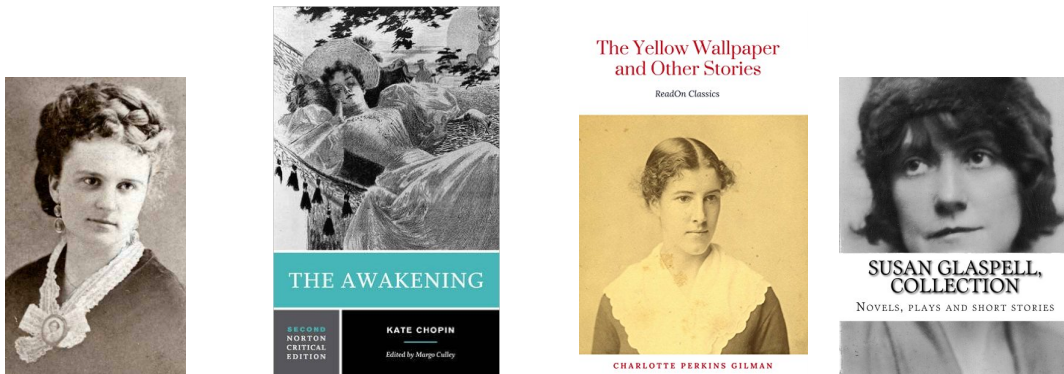


Explication de textes: *The Awakening*
Zoom link: <https://unil.zoom.us/j/97152638176>
Zoom password: awakening
Autumn 2020
Professor A. Soltysik Monnet
Moodle key: awakening

Office Hours: Tue 2-3 p.m.
Anthropole 5133
Office hours link:
<https://unil.zoom.us/j/5160799599>
Email:
Agnieszka.Soltysikmonnet@unil.ch



Syllabus: Chopin & Gilman (and Glaspell)

Course Description and Objectives:

Kate Chopin's novel *The Awakening* was condemned by numerous critics at the time of its publication in 1899. The work was considered scandalous, immoral, and unhealthy. In the 1960's the novel was rediscovered and hailed as a classic of American literature. In addition to focusing on close reading, this seminar will consider various theoretical interpretations, those that have contributed to the novel's re-evaluation, such as new historicism, feminism and gender theory. The main goal of the class, however, is learning the terms and tools of literary analysis of prose, including narration, style, tone, genre and focalization. Towards the end of the semester, in order to put Chopin's novel into context, we read some short stories by two other woman writers of the turn of the century, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Susan Glaspell.

Sept. 15: Introduction to the course, to American women's fiction at the turn of the century, to Kate Chopin, and to the historical context
Glossary 1 posted on Moodle

Sept. 22: Read *The Awakening*: to page 23
Topics include: cover art, paratexts, titles, beginnings, genres)
Glossary 2 posted on Moodle

Sept. 29: *The Awakening* (narrators, narration, focalization, character types): to page 44
Short quiz on vocabulary posted online

Discussion:

Oct. 6: *The Awakening* (figurative language): to page 68
Short quiz on vocabulary reviewed

Midterm passed out

Discussion leaders:

Oct. 13: special session on close textual analysis skills

Oct. 20: *The Awakening* (imagery, symbolism, allusion, semiotics): to page 90

Midterm due

Discussion

Oct. 27: *The Awakening* (structure, endings, closure, interpretation): finish

Discussion

Nov. 3: Reading Week

Nov. 10: Debates about the novel and feminism

Critical Text:

Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality" (1980) and Ann Heilmann, "*The Awakening* and New Woman Fiction" and other texts

Discussion:

Nov. 17: Other perspectives on the novel: Race, language, music, food

Critical texts: Bernard Koloski, "*The Awakening: The First Hundred Years*" & Elizabeth Ammond, "Women of Color in *The Awakening*," and other essays, from the Norton Edition

Discussion:

Nov. 24: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892) and "The Giant Wisteria"

Discussion

Dec. 1: Gilman, "Turned" (1911) and "Mrs. Elder's Idea" (1912)

Discussion:

Dec. 8: Susan Glaspell, "A Jury of Her Peers" (1917)

Discussion:

Dec. 15: conclusion

Course Requirements:

1. active participation in class discussions (this is a seminar, not a lecture course)
2. making up **group discussion questions** and leading a group discussion
3. short quiz on glossary Oct. 6th

4. Midterm: short take home analysis assignment due Oct. 20th (3-4 pages)(30%)
5. final essay (6-8 pages; 10-12 pages for 4 ECTS) (70%) due January 11th, 2021

Group Discussion Questions

Each student will sign up for a date on which to bring discussion questions and lead a group discussion. Your questions should focus on a passage or issue that comes up in the reading for that day. At least one question should try to engage with the literary terms assigned for that date. **Please send me the questions the night before so I can check them and I may ask you to change or correct them.** Questions should not be factual but should be exploratory and lead to discussions. They do not need to (and in fact *should not*) have clear or simple answers.

Take-home glossary quiz

A quiz on the 2 sets of literary terms that will be handed out in the first weeks of class

Take-home short analysis (midterm)

An analysis of a short passage, to be written at home and turned in on Oct. 20th -- following the EDGE style guidelines

Final essay (7-9 pages for 3 ECTS students OR 10-12 pages & secondary sources for 4 ECTS students)

The questions for the final essay will be passed out in November -- the essay is due January 11th and should be written according to the EDGE style guide (including double spacing). Any essays that seem to have flagrantly ignored the style sheet will be returned unread.

Bibliography: *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin in the Norton Critical Edition edited by Margo Culley – available at Basta! at Anthropole and downtown Lausanne: Rue du Petit Rocher 4, 1003 Lausanne

