Fernando Pessoa’s Multitude

INSTRUCTOR | DATES AND TIMES | LOCATION
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Katia Mitova | COURSE LENGTH: Ten weeks DATES: September 30 – December 9 No class on November 25 (Thanksgiving week) | Gleacher Center

EMAIL: kmitova@uchicago.edu (The instructor can be contacted through a Canvas message as well.)

DAY OF THE WEEK: Saturday TIME: 9:30 AM – 12:45 PM CST

COURSE CODE AND SECTION: BASC70213 23A2 PREREQUISITES: None

Although this is an in-person course, supplementary materials will be posted in Canvas. You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins. Please accept it. Canvas login instructions are available here: https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The stature of the national modernist writer of Portugal, Fernando Pessoa (1888–1935), has been on the rise in the English-speaking world. At the time of his death, Pessoa left two trunks full of unpublished manuscripts, only few of which were signed by his own name. The bulk of his writing was attributed to other personalities he called “heteronyms.” Each heteronym had a unique character, biography, and writing style. And each was invented by Pessoa the way a novelist might invent a character.

Pessoa’s oeuvre would be of interest to anyone willing to embrace the idea of a fluid self. We will focus on the recently published complete version of Book of Disquiet and some of Pessoa’s poet-heteronyms. We’ll also discuss Jose Saramago’s novel, The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis (1984), inspired by Pessoa’s multiplicity.

REQUIRED


OF POSSIBLE INTEREST


Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.
### WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

**NOTE:** When the course begins, this syllabus will be updated with specific selections for weeks 3-9.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
<th>ASSIGNED TEXT / SELECTION FOR CLASS DISCUSSION</th>
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| WEEK 1    | Pessoa  | The Book of Disquiet, Editor’s Note, pp. xvii-xix | **The Book of Disquiet**, Editor’s Note, pp. xvii-xix
| WEEK 1    | Pessoa  | The Book of Disquiet, First Phase (Vincente Guedes): #36, #39, #54, #68, #97-101, #152, and #153 | **The Book of Disquiet**, First Phase (Vincente Guedes): #36, #39, #54, #68, #97-101, #152, and #153
| WEEK 1    | Pessoa  | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe
| WEEK 2    | Pessoa  | In Lieu of an Author’s Preface, pp. 3-5 | **In Lieu of an Author’s Preface**, pp. 3-5
| WEEK 2    | Pessoa  | Alberto Caeiro, From “The Keeper of Sheep”: X, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XVI, XXXV, XLVI, XLVIII, XLIX | Alberto Caeiro, From “The Keeper of Sheep”: X, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XVI, XXXV, XLVI, XLVIII, XLIX
| WEEK 3    | Pessoa  | The Book of Disquiet | **The Book of Disquiet**
| WEEK 3    | Pessoa  | Second Phase (Bernardo Soares): #163-218 | Second Phase (Bernardo Soares): #163-218
| WEEK 3    | Pessoa  | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe
| WEEK 4    | Pessoa  | From “Uncollected Poems”: pp. 53, 55, 56, 61, 63, 64, 65, 67, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80 | From “Uncollected Poems”: pp. 53, 55, 56, 61, 63, 64, 65, 67, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80
| WEEK 5    | Pessoa  | The Book of Disquiet | **The Book of Disquiet**
| WEEK 5    | Pessoa  | Second Phase (Bernardo Soares): #219-277 | Second Phase (Bernardo Soares): #219-277
| WEEK 5    | Pessoa  | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe
| WEEK 5    | Pessoa  | Alvaro de Campos (Selection TBD) | Alvaro de Campos (Selection TBD)
| WEEK 6    | Pessoa  | The Book of Disquiet | **The Book of Disquiet**
| WEEK 6    | Pessoa  | Second Phase (Bernardo Soares): #278-333 | Second Phase (Bernardo Soares): #278-333
| WEEK 6    | Pessoa  | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe
| WEEK 6    | Pessoa  | Alvaro de Campos (Selection TBD) | Alvaro de Campos (Selection TBD)
| WEEK 7    | Pessoa  | The Book of Disquiet | **The Book of Disquiet**
| WEEK 7    | Pessoa  | Second Phase (Bernardo Soares): #334-384 | Second Phase (Bernardo Soares): #334-384
| WEEK 7    | Pessoa  | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe
| WEEK 7    | Pessoa  | Alvaro de Campos (Selection TBD) | Alvaro de Campos (Selection TBD)
| WEEK 7    | Pessoa  | The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis (pp. 1-80) | **The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis** (pp. 1-80)
| WEEK 7    | Pessoa  | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe | A Little Larger than the Entire Universe
| WEEK 7    | Pessoa  | Fernando Pessoa-Himself (Selection TBD) | Fernando Pessoa-Himself (Selection TBD)
| WEEK 8 11/18 | Saramago Pessoa | *The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis* (pp. 81-176)  
* A Little Larger than the Entire Universe  
Ricardo Reis (Selection TBD) |
| WEEK 9 12/2 | Saramago Pessoa | *The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis* (177-276)  
* A Little Larger than the Entire Universe  
Ricardo Reis (Selection TBD) |
| WEEK 10 12/9 | Saramago Pessoa | *The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis* (pp. 277-358)  
* A Little Larger than the Entire Universe  
Fernando Pessoa-Himself: From “Message” (pp. 369-383)  
Rubá’iyat (pp. 385-392)  
From “Faust” (pp. 395-402) |

**DISABILITY INFORMATION**

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.