AU SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2015

THE TRUTH ABOUT FICTION
Biological Reality and Imaginary Lives

TEACHER: JOSEPH CARROLL
THE TRUTH ABOUT FICTION
Biological Reality and Imaginary Lives

Over the past forty years, the evolutionary perspective has gradually developed into an explanatory framework that encompasses all things human: anatomy, physiology, behavior, and the products of the human mind. This course introduces students to the evolutionary study of prose fiction, graphic narratives, and film.

In this course, students learn to integrate high-level causal principles of evolutionary biology, concepts of human nature deriving from the evolutionary human sciences, and a nuanced understanding of how meaning and effect are produced in specific works of literature and/or film.

The course will be conducted as a seminar with lectures and class discussion. Students will be assigned responsibility for posting critical commentaries on the materials we read and watch, and students will be assigned days on which to identify discussion topics and lead discussion.

Students should have a strong command of the English language and be committed to conscientious work during the course. No previous knowledge of evolutionary theory is required. Anyone with a good general education should be equipped to perform well in the course. No specific expertise in English or American literature is required.

The course is pass/fail and can be taken as an MA level profile elective course. Successful participation in the course will consist in attending a minimum of 75% of classes, completing reading assignments, completing assignments for online postings on the course website, and contributing constructively to discussion in class.

The course teacher, Professor Joseph Carroll, is the leading scholar in evolutionary literary studies and has published extensively in the field. Questions can be directed to the course organizer, Mathias Clasen at: mc@dac.au.dk.
In 2014 more than 1500 Danish and international students decided to spend part of their summer taking specialized, intensive courses at AU Summer University. More than 60 nationalities were represented.

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Date: 2 July - 30 July
ECTS: 10
Level: Master's

TARGET GROUP
The course is suitable for students with a relevant Bachelor's degree within Humanities.

AU Summer University welcomes Danish and international full time students, exchange students and free movers.

APPLICATION
The online application system will open on the 1st of December 2014. The application deadline is the 15th of March 2015.

Please visit: au.dk/summeruniversity for more information on application procedures, housing, location and the social programme.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING DANISH AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO AU SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2015.