

ECLA Spring Term 09-10

### **PY Research Seminars**

Tuesday and Thursday 13:30-16:30

### **Tracy Colony**

The research seminars are conceived as a forum offering PY students the opportunity to engage with the research pursued by other fellow students throughout the year, and as a chance for each student to present his/her own ideas to an audience of peers. The main aim of the seminars is to help each and every student, independently of the stage of their work, to identify the central issues of their research project, to make this content available to fellow students who may be unfamiliar with its topic or even its discipline, and to receive constructive feedback, which may then be integrated in the final version of the project itself. Seminars will take place twice a week for the first 5 weeks of the spring term in single sessions of 3 hours with a break, and will be structured as follows: Each session is devoted to one student. In the first half of the seminar (circa 2 hours) the appointed student will present his/her own project, and will introduce the chosen text and its relevance or use in the broader context of the project, the issues which it raises and how they will be dealt with in the project. A Q&A session and a thorough discussion of the text and the project in the form of a seminar will follow. In the second and shorter part of the session (about 40 minutes), taking place after the break, each student should produce a brief written piece which may serve as feedback for the presenting student. This should NOT be conceived as an evaluation of the student's presentation or work, but rather as an academic paper responding CONSTRUCTIVELY to the issues and problems raised by the text read in class and the ensuing discussion. The papers will be collected by the seminars' coordinator at the end of each session and graded. Students will also receive participation grades. The spring term's course grade will consist of an average of these two grades. In the first two weeks we will read and discuss texts on the topic of interdisciplinary methodology. In the first week: Emerson's "The American Scholar" and "Self-Reliance". In the second week: Emerson's "Experience" and "Elements of a Theory of Hermeneutic Experience" from Hans-Georg Gadamer's *Truth and Method*.

### **Schedule of presentations:**

Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup> Sarah Flavel  
Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> David Duncan  
Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup> Doina Proorocu  
Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> (Holiday – rescheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup>)  
Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup> Dan Panaet Balteanu  
Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> Candela Marini  
Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup> Lydia Azadpour