



The Persistence of Memory, Salvador Dalí (1931)

TELLING TIME

problems in the literary representation of the past

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 ENGLISH 44809, M.A. SEMINAR, 2 PTS
 MONDAYS 16.30-18.15

This course investigates the use of literary and linguistic realism in the evocation of the historical past. From the Middle English crusading romance, *Richard Coeur de Lion*, to Hilary Mantel's 2009 historical novel *Wolf Hall*, this course will examine how literary representations of the past adopt a language historically removed from that of the reader, even as they invite the reader's intimate identification with temporally distant narratives, characters, and cultures. Close readings of literary and theoretical texts will illuminate how language and rhetoric serve to inflect the reader's experience of narrative time and historical distance. Rejecting verisimilitude as a measure of the success of literary realism, we will explore how archaism, anachronism, nostalgia, and irony are activated in the literary reimagining of the past.

PRIMARY

Richard Coeur de Lion
 Malory, *Le Morte D'Arthur*
 Cowley, *Davideis*
 Tennyson, *Idylls of the King*
 Scott, *Ivanhoe*
 White, *The Once and Future King*
 Eco, *The Name of the Rose*
 Mantel, *Wolf Hall*

CRITICAL (selections)

Ankersmit, *Narrative Logic*
 Auerbach, *Mimesis*
 Coleman, *Ancient and Medieval Memories*
 Currie, *About Time*
 Fasolt, *The Limits of History*
 Gell, *The Anthropology of Time*
 Jameson, *Antinomies of Realism*
 Lukács, *The Historical Novel*
 Munro, "Nemp your sexes!"
 Nagel and Wood, *Anachronic Renaissance*
 Schiffman, *The Birth of the Past*