

Seminar in Literary Theory

Literature and the Death Penalty

COLT/CSLC 602, 22090D, Spring 2014, Tuesdays, 2:00-4:50 pm, THH 203

This seminar will pursue ideas from Derrida's *The Death Penalty I* (2013) about literature over the last 200 years in relation to capital punishment. Why have so many literary works been linked to the struggle against the death penalty in the West? What does literary discourse offer to this struggle that discourses of law, philosophy, or religious belief cannot supply? Questions like this will be posed to a number of works by, among others, Hugo, Wordsworth, Shelley, Poe, Baudelaire, Kafka, Orwell, Camus, Genet. Participants in the seminar are expected to research a project on the writer of her/his choice. There will be two oral presentations and a final research paper (20-25 pages).



Professor Peggy Kamuf

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