**Disseminar** calls up a deep reflection on what we think we are doing when we enter a classroom. The work entails a thoroughgoing investigation of the implications, framing systems, proving grounds, conceptual pre-sups and pre-nups of the pedagogical scene. Themes and topoi include: the predicament of the student body under duress or in ecstatic openness; pedagogy and essential perversion; the masochistic disposition of learning; the myth of teachability; the question of sexual harassment and the historicity of the job market. The **Disseminar** seeks to shed light on the emergence of trigger warnings since the time Socrates disavowed his pupils. Readings include Derrida’s “University in the Eyes of its Pupils” and “The University without Condition;” critical theory articulated by Barbara Johnson and Paul de Man; texts on masochism, sadism, and Oedipedagogy; Heidegger’s *Rektoratsrede*; Freud’s case studies; short prose on testing to failure in Kafka and Walser; Nietzsche’s ambivalent love affairs with his teachers Schopenhauer, Wagner, and Lou; Alfred Hitchcock on the breakdown of the pedagogical relation.
Course Trajectory

September 8
Introduction

September 15
Hiring and Firing Squads: Unworking Prose
Franz Kafka, “The Test”
Robert Walser, “The Job Application”

September 22
Prof. lectures out of town: NO CLASS

September 29
Overinvested Examinations: From Agony to Zen
Avital Ronell, The Test Drive (selections)

October 6
Institutional Foundations: The Lowdown
Jacques Derrida, “The University in the Eyes of Its Pupils”
Jacques Derrida, “The University Without Condition”

October 13
“The Triumph of the Will:” Humble Bear Pose
Martin Heidegger, “The Self-Assertion of the German University”
Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe, “The Age’s Modesty”

October 20
Up Yours! Transference and Oedipedagogy
Sigmund Freud, “Notes Upon a Case of Obsessional Neurosis”

October 27
Learning to Teach: The Masochistic Disposition
Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, Venus in Furs
Gilles Deleuze, Coldness and Cruelty (selections)

November 3
Trigger Warning: The Revenge of the Student Body
Jane Gallop, Feminist Accused of Sexual Harassment
November 11
**Growth Spurts: A Minor’s Literature**
Immanuel Kant, “What Is Enlightenment?”
Avital Ronell, *Loser Sons* (selections)

November 17
**Reading Ourselves Reading: Learning and Stumbling Blocks**
Paul de Man, “Resistance to Theory”
Barbara Johnson, “Nothing Fails Like Success”
Barbara Johnson, “Teaching Deconstructively”

November 24
**THANKSGIVING**

December 1
**Allegories of Breeding: Hybrid Humanities**
Franz Kafka, “A Report to an Academy”

December 8
**“Who’s Your Daddy?” The Mentor as Tormentor**
Friedrich Nietzsche, “Schopenhauer as Educator”

December 15
**Pleasing the Teacher: A Misprision**
Alfred Hitchcock, *Rope* (screening and discussion)

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The painstaking preparation of the course materials is imperative. Read all assigned texts at least twice. Ruminate thoroughly.

Participation in all sessions is encouraged. If ill, let us know and stay away so as not to infect others. Return swiftly upon recovery.

Enrolled pupils will submit a 15-page research paper at the end of term. The writing should reflect keen insight, the ability to read closely, and a firm grasp of the reflections, concepts and logical snafus developed and discussed.

For answers to possible questions, turn to course TA Mr. Dominik Zechner: dz639@nyu.edu