

20th Century European Cultural and Intellectual History

HISTORY 3341

COML 3341

Spring 2009

T & R 10:10 – 11:25

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Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to some of the major landmarks in European cultural and intellectual history, from the turn-of-the-century to the 1980s. We will pay special attention to the relationship between texts and their various contexts. Among other themes, we will cover the invention and development of psychoanalysis from Freud to Lacan; the formation of new nationalisms and fascisms; artistic manifestoes from Surrealism, Dada, Cubism, primitivism, and *négritude*; phenomenology, existentialism, the Frankfurt School, and structuralism; May '68 and its aftermath, with feminism, third-worldism, and anti-totalitarian thought.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to attend every class, do all the reading (by Tuesday morning), and participate actively during discussion.

In addition, there will be a in-class midterm (on March 5th), a 5-7 page paper (due April 9th), and an in-class final (May 8th, 2 - 4:30 pm).

Any violation of the Academic Code of Integrity will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct and will result in a failing grade for the course.

The grade breakdown is as follows:

Class Attendance and Participation: 10% ; Midterm: 30% ; Paper: 30% ; Final: 30%

Required Books:

Available for purchase at the Cornell Bookstore, or on reserve at Uris Library. Please note that you can also find many of these books used (on Amazon Marketplace, for example). All other texts are available online through the Blackboard course site. Please make sure that you come to class with the book or with a printed version of these texts so that we can refer to specific passages.

Sigmund Freud, *Dora: an Analysis of a Case of Hysteria* (Touchstone, 1997)
André Breton, *Manifestoes of Surrealism* (University of Michigan Press, 1969)
Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (University of Chicago Press, 2007)
Marcel Mauss, *The Gift* (Norton, 2000)
Ernst Junger, *Storm of Steel* (Penguin, 2004)
Albert Camus, *The Stranger* (Vintage, 1989)
Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (Stanford, 2002)
Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (Grove Press, 2005)
George Perec, *Things: A Story of the Sixties* (David Godine, 2002)
Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality: An Introduction* (Vintage, 1990)

Course Outline:

Tue. 01/20 **Introduction**
Thu. 01/22 The Legacy of the Nineteenth-Century

The Invention of Psychoanalysis

Tue. 01/27 Sexologists and Psychologists
Thu. 01/29 The Freudian Revolution

Readings: Sigmund Freud, *Dora: an Analysis of a Case of Hysteria*

Surrealism, Dada, and the Experiments with Form

Tue. 02/03 The Surrealist Manifestoes
Thu. 02/05 Dada and Négritude

Readings: André Breton, *Manifestoes of Surrealism* (excerpts)

The Literature of WWI

Tue. 02/10 The Trauma of the War
Thu. 02/12 Different Responses: Remarque and Jünger

Readings: • Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel*
 • Movie: *All Quiet on the Western Front* (screening Wed. 02/11 at 7pm at RCK 105)

Europe and the World

Tue. 02/17 Colonialism, Anthropology, and the Knowledge of the “Other”
Thu. 02/19 Primitivism and Cubism

Readings: Marcel Mauss, *The Gift*

The Interwar Years

Tue. 02/24 Fascisms
Thu. 02/26 “Neither Left nor Right”: Interwar Thinkers

Readings:

- Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*
- Georges Bataille, “The Notion of Expenditure”; “The Sacred Conspiracy”; “The Psychological Structure of Fascism”; “Popular Front in the Streets”

Heidegger and “The Question”

Tue. 03/03 Heidegger

Thu. 03/05 **IN-CLASS MIDTERM**

Readings: Dominick LaCapra, “Heidegger’s Nazi Turn”

Existentialisms

Tue. 03/10 Sartre
Thu. 03/12 Camus

Readings: Albert Camus, *The Stranger*

SPRING BREAK

The Frankfurt School

Tue. 03/24 The Frankfurt School
Thu. 03/26 The Critique of Enlightenment

Readings: Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (excerpts)

Structuralism and the Problem of Exchange

Tue. 03/31 Claude Lévi-Strauss and the Incest Prohibition
Thu. 04/02 Jacques Lacan and the Return to Freud

Readings:

- Claude Lévi-Strauss, excerpts from *The Elementary Structures of Kinship*
- Jacques Lacan, “The Function and Field of Speech and Language in Psychoanalysis”

Decolonization and the Emergence of “Third World Literature”

Tue. 04/07 Making the Subaltern Speak: Frantz Fanon
Thu. 04/09 National Culture and Third World Cinema

Readings:

- Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*
- Movie: : *The Battle of Algiers* (screening Wed. 04/08 at 7pm at RCK 105)

PAPER DUE ON 04/09

Feminisms

Tue. 04/14 The Second Sex
Thu. 04/16 Beyond Beauvoir: Monique Wittig and Luce Irigaray

Readings:

- Simone de Beauvoir, Introduction to *The Second Sex*
- Monique Wittig, excerpts from *The Straight Mind*
- Luce Irigaray, “Questions” (from *This Sex Which Is Not One*)

May 68 and Its Critics

Tue. 04/21 May '68, the Students, and the Left
Thu. 04/23 The Question of Ideology

Readings:

- Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus”
- George Perec, *Things: A Story of the Sixties*
- Movie: Jean-Luc Godard, *La Chinoise* (screening Wed. 04/22 at 7pm at RCK 105)

Deconstruction

Tue. 04/28 Derrida and the Problem of Language
Thu. 04/30 Foucault and the Question of Power/Knowledge

Readings:

- Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, vol. I*
- Derrida, “Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences”