

Philosophy 268: CULTURAL CRITIQUE: MARX, NIETZSCHE, FREUD AND BEYOND
Fall, 2008

Professor: Alan Schrift
Office: Steiner 311
Office Phone: 3161
Office Hours: T -TH 4:15 - 5:00; W 1:30 - 3:00, and by appointment

Required Texts

Karl Marx: *The German Ideology*
Friedrich Nietzsche: *On the Genealogy of Morals*
Sigmund Freud: *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*
Civilization and its Discontents
Michel Foucault: *The History of Sexuality, Volume One*
Judith Butler: *Gender Trouble*

In addition to these texts, there will be several reading assignments available on E-reserve.

Course Objectives

We will begin by examining several key texts of the 19th and early 20th Century by Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud, texts that lay the groundwork for the “Critique of Ideology” that evolved in the late 20th Century into the interdisciplinary field of “Cultural Critique.” In the second half of the semester, we will focus on a selection of essays or short works that, in one way or another, draw upon some combination or fusion of the critical perspectives of Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud, paying particular attention to representatives of the Frankfurt School (Adorno, Reich, Benjamin, Arendt), structuralism (Althusser), and poststructuralism (Foucault, Mouffe, Butler, Deleuze and Guattari).

Course Requirements

Final grades will be determined on the basis of overall class participation and the following requirements [percentage of final grade in brackets]:

1. **Mid-term/Short paper:** in response to questions provided; 5-6 pages. [25%]
Due: Before Fall Break
2. **Final paper:** topic of student’s choice, in consultation with instructor; 15 pages. [40%] Due: December 16.
3. **Class Presentation:** each student will be responsible for presenting a summary of one of the assigned readings after Fall Break. Depending on class size, these presentations may be done in groups of two students. [15%]
4. **Position Papers:** each week, submit on Tuesday a one-page typed comment on some aspect of the reading of that week. These papers will be graded, and will be figured into your class participation grade component. [10%]
5. **Class Participation.** [10%]: In addition to participating in class, you will be asked to submit a discussion question by 10:00am to the class “Discussion Board” on Blackboard.

ATTENDANCE: You are **expected** to attend class. Although attendance normally will not be taken, more than **three** unexcused absences **will** result in a lowering of your grade for the class participation component. More than **SIX** unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.

LATE POLICY: Written assignments which are submitted late will be penalized **one letter grade** for each 24 hours late. Papers submitted more than 48 hours late will **NOT** be accepted. Exceptions to this policy will be made only for medical reasons.

PHILOSOPHY 268: Tentative Course Outline

Aug. 28	Introduction	
Sept. 2	HEGEL:	“Self-Consciousness” from <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> (E-reserve)
Sept. 4	MARX:	<i>German Ideology</i> , pp. 37-68
Sept. 9	MARX:	<i>German Ideology</i> , pp. 68-95
Sept. 11	MARX:	“Theses on Feuerbach,” pp. 121-123
Sept. 16	MARX:	Selections from <i>Capital</i> (E-reserve)
Sept. 18	NIETZSCHE:	“On Truth and Lies in a Non-moral Sense” (E-reserve) <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Preface + Essay One
Sept. 23	NIETZSCHE:	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Essay Two
Sept. 25	NIETZSCHE:	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Essays Two & Three
Sept. 30	NIETZSCHE:	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Essay Three
Oct. 2	FREUD:	<i>An Outline of Psychoanalysis</i> , pp. 9-46 (skim 49-78)
Oct. 7	FREUD:	<i>An Outline of Psychoanalysis</i> , pp. 79-97 Dream Interpretations & Other Selections (E-reserve)
Oct. 9	FREUD:	<i>Civilization and its Discontents</i> , Chap. I-IV (pp. 10-63)
Oct. 14	FREUD:	<i>Civilization and its Discontents</i> , Chap. V-VIII (pp. 64-112)
	Ricoeur:	“The Critique of Religion” (E-reserve)
Oct. 16	NO CLASS	

October 17: 5:00 pm **MIDTERM DUE** Sent electronically to schrift@grinnell.edu

Oct. 18 — Oct. 26 **FALL BREAK**

Oct. 28	Adorno:	“Freudian Theory and the Pattern of Fascist Propaganda” (E-reserve)
Oct. 30	Reich:	Selections from <i>The Mass Psychology of Fascism</i> (E-reserve)
Nov. 4	Lyotard:	“Discussions, or Phrasing ‘after Auschwitz’” (E-reserve)
Nov. 6	W. Benjamin:	“Theses on the Philosophy of History” (On Reserve , Not E-reserve)
Nov. 11	Bataille:	Selection from <i>The Accursed Share, Vol. One</i> (E-reserve) “The Notion of Expenditure” (E-reserve)
Nov. 13	Althusser:	“Ideology and State Apparatuses” (E-reserve)
Nov. 18	Foucault:	<i>History of Sexuality</i> , pp. 1-73
Nov. 20	Foucault:	<i>History of Sexuality</i> , pp. 75-159
	Foucault:	Selections from <i>Society Must Be Defended</i> (E-reserve)
Nov. 25	Deleuze-Guattari:	Selection from <i>Anti-Oedipus</i> (On Reserve , Not E-reserve)

NOV. 27-30 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Dec. 2	Butler:	<i>Gender Trouble</i> , Chapter One (pp. 1-46)
Dec. 4	Butler:	<i>Gender Trouble</i> , pp. 47-58, 97-106, 127-150 (10 th ann. ed: 45-55, 91-100, 119-141)
Dec. 9	Butler:	<i>Gender Trouble</i> , pp. 151-203 (10 th ann. ed: 141-190) <i>Gender Trouble</i> , Preface (1999) p. vii-xxvii) and <i>Bodies that Matter</i> , Preface (E-reserve)
Dec. 11	Mouffe:	“Democratic Politics and the Question of Identity” (E-reserve) “Democratic Citizenship and the Political Community” (E-reserve)

December 16 **PAPERS DUE**