

Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts
801 Seminar V

Course Number: 801.1
Course Name: Seminar V, Part 1: Topological Studies II
Dates: May 26–June 21, 2022: Residency Intensive
Faculty: George Smith, Howard Caygill, Dejan Lukic
Visiting Faculty: Giovanni Tusa
TA: N/A
Credits: 1

Course Number: 801.2
Course Name: Seminar V, Part 2:
Continental *Glissement*: German Idealism & the French Inhuman
Dates: September 19 – December 12, 2022
Format: Online
Faculty: Prof. Dejan Lukic (Weeks 1-5), Prof. Silvia Mazzini (Weeks 6-11)
Credits: 4
TA: Amy Schuessler

SYLLABUS

Seminar V, Part 2 - Fall 2022

Continental *Glissement*: German Idealism & the French Inhuman

Course Description:

In Seminar V, Part 1 (Topological Studies II) we reengaged Kant & Hegel with a reading of Kant's Third Critique, a good close reading of Hegel's Preface, Introduction, and Chapter IV to the *Phenomenology of Mind*, readings from Hegel's *Aesthetics*, Vol. I, and texts by Heidegger, Heraclitus, Plato, and Nietzsche.

Seminar V, Part 2 traces the ways in which Romantic philosophy of Schelling and Novalis seeps into major ideas of German Idealism. These same ideas can also be found in Nietzsche's major work *The Gay Science*, both in philosophical themes treated as well as in his writing style. Heidegger intensifies Nietzsche's phenomenological deconstruction of Platonic truth and proposes art as the clearing in which truth appears. His unique ontological critique of Western metaphysics "slips" into French itineraries, such as Jacques Derrida's project of deconstruction and Luce Irigaray's feminist reorientation of psychoanalytic theory. Then, in response to Merleau-Ponty's assertion that "all the great philosophical ideas of the last century...had their beginnings in Hegel," we trace Hegel's ideas through 20th-century French post-humanists, arriving at studies of Foucault and Lyotard. In the last stay of this journey, Vattimo combines Marxist critique with a hermeneutical reading of Heidegger, Nietzsche, Derrida and Lyotard, opening to further developments and "glissements."

Learning Objectives:

- To see the inter-textual "slippage" between the three most important philosophical epochs in the past three centuries: German Idealist and Romantic philosophy and French post-humanism.
- To understand how these "slippages" have influenced contemporary thinking about subjectivity and global aesthetics.
- To refine and advance critical thinking and writing skills, through an intensive engagement with the history of ideas in philosophy, art, and aesthetics.
- To further develop inter-textual analysis as a fundamental critical methodology through written assignments that pose specific questions in relation to the readings.

Course Requirements:

In week 3, a question will be posted in Assignments in Canvas asking students to submit a five to seven-page (double-spaced) analysis of the inter-textual relations among the texts most recently read and discussed. Students in their study groups will compare ideas in order to work out individual written responses; students are responsible for organizing their own study groups.

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A final question will be posted in week 9 asking students to thread the inter-textual relations among the seminar texts. The final essay should be eight to ten pages, double-spaced. It is to be prepared, as with the others, with the assistance of collaborative discussions with fellow students (please note that, as for any other assignment, each student will produce his/her own individual paper).

Open Class Forum: Students can initiate optional written discussion in Canvas (“Discussions” area) every week. However, in designated OCF weeks, the discussion will be more structured and will require students to answer specific questions. OCF should be considered as a focused conversation with the readings and one another (not a social-media style forum for scattered musings). The primary goal for the OCF is to guide students in the task of “formulating the question”. To this end, the TA will model the questions to facilitate the learning process.

- During OCF weeks, the TA will post a couple of intertextual questions based on the assigned readings (these questions will be ‘pinned’ by the TA). Each student is required to answer/address a question at least once in the discussion thread, and for each OCF-designated week. Students are encouraged to pose their own questions as well, as part of their answers.
- These responses should be posted preferably by the middle of the week, to allow for the discussion to take place with other members of the class.
- Replies to questions should be **thoughtful and succinct (under 200 words)** in order to keep the conversation lively and to the point.
- Replies should (i) address at least one of the questions, and (ii) engage productively with other student comments.
- The TA will act as a mediator and step in whenever necessary to provide feedback or refocus the conversation if it goes out of track.

In addition to serving our immediate learning and engagement with the material, Open Class Forum discussions should also lay the groundwork for the seminar essay assignments. Cohort OCF discussion is archived for this purpose. Moreover, if you have a good solid OCF trail, oral exam prep is very doable. Without that, orals prep can be very difficult.

Written Assignments & Submission:

Assignment 1: posted 10/6, due 10/21 (5-7pp)
 Assignment 2/Final: posted 11/19, due 12/12 (8-10pp)

All assignment questions should be addressed in terms of intertextual analysis, and, as noted above, all questions must be discussed and strategized in teams of two or three students (however, all written material submitted must be solely that of the person submitting).

Please use a Times New Roman font, point 12, double-spaced, leaving a 1” margin on top/bottom and 1” on right and left sides. No other fonts or formats are acceptable. Make sure all your documents are editable: files should have a word .doc or .docx extension – no .pdf will be accepted. Clearly mark your name, seminar and assignment on the front page of your document, and number your pages. Each assignment should also include the names of at least two people with whom you have worked on the question.

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Please use MLA style in your papers. Please also review the *IDSVA Writing Guide* (available in Canvas), especially Section VIII for some tips on writing style and mechanics. Submitted documents should be uploaded through Assignments in Canvas, and titled according to the following format:

familyname, givenname_704_assignment #_yymmdd
(e.g., “Jones, Sally_704_assignment 1_171022”).

Late submissions will not be graded unless prior arrangements have been made with the Professors for a brief extension (made on a case-by-case basis in response to special circumstances).

Assessment:

Grades will be determined by assessment of the following:

- Contributions to Open Class Forum, seminar conference calls and individual calls with Professor (30%);
- Interim writing assignment (30%)
- Final Essay (40%).

Required Texts:

All texts are listed in reading order. Please order listed editions.

Note: **PDFs**, when available, are indicated at the end of the bibliographical listing, and shared in Canvas. □ = Texts are page-limited, not the whole book.

1. □ **F. W. J. Schelling**, *The Philosophy of Art*, Ed. and Trans. Douglas W. Stott. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press, 1989. (ISBN 0-81-66-1684-1). **PDF** (Chapter 3: 83-107).
2. □ **Novalis**, *Notes for a Romantic Encyclopedia*, Ed. and Trans. David W. Wood. State University of New York Press, 2011. (ISBN-10: 0791469743). **PDF**. 1-30.
3. **Nietzsche, Friedrich**. *The Gay Science*. Ed. Bernard Williams. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. (ISBN 978 0 521 63645 2)
4. □ **Bowie, Andrew**. *Aesthetics and Subjectivity: from Kant to Nietzsche*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2003. (ISBN 978 0 7190 5738 0) □ Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, Conclusion. **PDF**
5. **Heidegger, Martin**. *Being and Time*. Trans. Joan Stambaugh. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2010. ISBN-10: 1438432763, ISBN-13: 9781438432762.
6. □ **Heidegger, Martin**. *Basic Writings*. Ed. David Farrell Krell. San Francisco: Harper, 1993. (ISBN 0 06 063763 3). Krell’s Introduction (optional but recommended), (I) Section 7 of “Being and Time: Introduction”, (II) “What is Metaphysics?”, (III).

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7. □ **Derrida, Jacques.** *Margins of Philosophy*, Trans. Alan Bass. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982, 1984, or 1985. (ISBN 0-226-14326-0). “Différance” and “The Ends of Man.”
8. **Irigaray, Luce.** *This Sex Which Is Not One*. Trans. Catharine Porter. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1985. (ISBN 0 8014 9331 5)
9. □ **Keenan, Dennis King (ed).** *Hegel and Contemporary Continental Philosophy*. New York: SUNY Press, 2004. (ISBN 978 0 791 46092 4). Chapters: 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 17, 18, 23.
10. □ **Foucault, Michel.** *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of Human Knowledge*. New York: Vintage, 1994. (ISBN-13: 978-0679753353). Foreword, Preface, Chapter 1, 2, 7 and 9.
11. □ **Lyotard, Jean-Francois.** *The Inhuman*. Trans. Geoffrey Bennington and Rachel Bowlby. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1991. (ISBN 0 8047 2008 8). Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 16. **PDF**
12. **Vattimo, Gianni.** *The Transparent Society*. Trans. David Webb. Cambridge, Polity Press 1992. (ISBN 0745609260; 9780745609263; 0745610471; 9780745610474). **PDF**

Detailed Course Schedule:

It is recommended that readings be completed *before the week* they are listed, then *reviewed* in depth during the assigned week.

Times are listed in Eastern Time. Video Conferences will run approximately 2 hours; it's a good idea to allow for more time before and after the VC. Please make sure to log in at least 10 minutes before class time and allow troubleshooting with audio and video settings. Using a headset is highly recommended for the best audio results.

SECTION 1: THE GERMANS

Prof. Lukic (Weeks 1-5)

Week 1: Sept 19–25

VC: Wednesday, Sept 21 - 6-8pm ET Professor Dejan Lukic
Schelling+Novalis + Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*.

Week 2: Sept 26–Oct 2

OCF: Andrew Bowie, Chapters 4 (on Schelling) and 8 (on Nietzsche).

Week 3: Oct 3-9

VC: Wednesday Oct 5, 6-8pm ET
Heidegger, *Basic Writings*: “What is Metaphysics?”

Writing Assignment 1 Question: posted 10/6, due Friday 10/21

Week 4: Oct 10-16

Calls

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Derrida, *Margins of Philosophy*: “Différance” and “The Ends of Man.”

Week 5: Oct 17-23

VC: Thursday Oct 20, 12-2 pm ET, guest lecture by professor Giovanbattista Tusa: “Ekstasis. Of Time”.

Heidegger, *Being and Time*.

OCF: “Introduction” to *Being and Time*

Assignment 1 **due Friday 10/21**

SECTION 2: THE FRENCH

Prof. Mazzini (Weeks 6-11)

Week 6: Oct 24–30

VC: Sunday, Oct 30, 1-3 pm

Irigaray, Luce. *This Sex Which is Not One*.

FALL BREAK -- Oct 31- Nov 6*

**Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 6 at 2am EDT*

EDT in the U.S. ends Nov. 6 (clocks are turned back 1 hour at 2 am)

Week 8: Nov 7-13

Calls + OCF

Keenan, *Hegel and Contemporary Continental Philosophy*:

Preface: Keenan; Chapter 3: Sartre; Chapter 5: Merleau-Ponty; Chapter 7: Fanon; Chapter 10:

Lacan; Chapter 12: Deleuze; Chapter 17: Kristeva; Chapter 18: Levinas; Chapter 23: Nancy.

Week 9: Nov 14-20

VC Sunday, Nov 20, 1-3 pm

Foucault, *The Order of Things*: Foreword, Preface, Chapters 1, 2, 7, 9.

Final Essay Question: **posted 11/19, due 12/12**

Week 10: Nov 21-27 [Thanksgiving Nov 24-25]

Calls (small groups) + OCF

Lyotard, *The Inhuman*: Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 16.

Week 11: Nov 28–Dec 4

VC: Sunday, Dec 4, 1-3 pm

Vattimo, *The Transparent Society*.

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Week 12: Dec 5–11

Writing period.

Final Essay due Monday 12/12