

**IDSVA SYLLABUS**  
**Seminar VI**  
**Toward an Ethico-Aesthetics**  
**Spring 2023**

**Part 1:** Mexico City Intensive  
**Course Number:** 803.1  
**Course Name:** Seminar VI, Part 1: MC Intensive  
**Dates:** January 9-14, 2023  
**Format:** Residency  
**Instructor:** Prof. Dejan Lukic  
**Credits:** 1

**Part 2: Online section**  
**Course Number:** 803.2  
**Course Name:** Seminar VI, Part 2: Toward an Ethico-Aesthetics  
**Dates:** Jan 30 – April 22, 2023 (Spring Break: Mar 6 - Mar 12)  
**Format:** Online/Teleconference/IC  
**Instructors:** Prof. Dejan Lukic, Prof. Silvia Mazzini  
**TA:** Jocelyn Holmes  
**Credits:** 5

## **Course Description**

Seminar VI begins with the intensive residency in Mexico City in January, with daily individual student seminar presentations focusing on IS papers students wrote during the Fall semester in the 802 course. The residency includes visits to main museums and galleries to present notable aspects of Mesoamerican culture and sense the pulse of the art world at this juncture in time. It also reveals the conceptual, practical, and intertextual relationship between topological studies and core seminars.

Seminar VI, Part 2, will then re-ask the questions stemming from the preceding contexts: “what is art?” and “what is art’s responsibility?” Insofar as ethics and aesthetics are situated as mutually exclusive terms within the formalist construct, the title of the seminar already indicates a theoretical disposition: that is, a movement in the direction of a “new” ethical and aesthetic paradigm. This movement implies both futurity (whereby philosophical thought proposes and announces), as well as multi-directionality (whereby we enter into a multiplicity of time and space). Ultimately, we will try to define that very moment in which ethics and aesthetics hermeneutically merge in the domain of art.

To this end, we will deal with concepts such as “mobilization”, “rhizome”, “air”, “geophilosophy”, “apocalypse”, “asymmetry”, etc., in the context of four themes of inquiry: “Liberation,” “Metaphors of the End,” “Ends of Man,” and “Art & Politics.” All of these concepts correspond to the end of some historical paradigm. But the “end” signals not a full stop

of thinking or experience, but rather to a shift, a yet another reorientation, a yet another “towards.”

This conceptual move will allow us to consider the philosophical relation of ethics to aesthetics and vice versa as implicit in the term “representation.” This in turn, becomes the signal ethico-aesthetic question in the work of Nietzsche, Arendt, Fanon, Deleuze, Sloterdijk, Junger, Berardi, Heidegger, and Rancière, among others.

## Learning Objectives

- To elucidate the fundamental concepts comprising an ethico-aesthetics.
- To refine and advance students’ critical thinking and writing skills through intensive engagement with the history of ideas in philosophy, art, and aesthetics.
- To further develop intertextual analysis as a fundamental critical methodology.

## Course Requirements

Videoconferences involving all students in the seminar are scheduled roughly every two/three weeks; Individual Phone Calls are also scheduled every three weeks. The TA will moderate Open Class Forum (OCF) discussions.

**Open Class Forum.** In designated OCF weeks, there will be a formal and collaborative discussion of readings. OCF is a focused conversation with the readings and one another (not a social-media forum).

- During these weeks, the TA will post on OCF up to three intertextual questions based on the assigned readings. These questions will be posted as one post no later than Monday at 12 am Eastern Time.
- 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.
- You are welcome to reply to more than one question, but please post the replies separately.
- Every student is required to answer a question in OCF in designated weeks. Replies must be posted by **Sunday** at midnight at the latest, but you are strongly encouraged to post replies sooner to enable more fruitful discussion.
- There will also be optional discussions in Canvas every week.
- 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 questions. Cohort OCF discussion is archived and if you have a good solid OCF trail, oral exam prep is very doable. Without that, oral prep can be very difficult.

## Videoconferences (VC)

Students are required to *participate* in videoconference seminar discussions, so please come to class having done the readings for that week. The critical approach will be grounded in close

reading and intertextual analysis, with the primary focus on the given week's assigned reading. You should factor in 2 hours per videoconference (plus some buffer time at the beginning and the end) and make every effort to be present via webcam & audio.

Please respect the Video conference etiquette: students are expected to be on video. If, in special circumstances, this is not possible, please ask the professor and the TA for permission not to use the video.

### **VC etiquette:**

- Students are expected to participate via webcam. Being on **video** implements the interactive character of the VC, the level of attention of the students and helps the instructor to engage more actively in their communicative skills. Any exemption should be discussed with the professor in charge before the class takes place and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. For example, if you are traveling or have problems with your connection, ask the professor for permission not to use the webcam or to participate via phone.
- Please make use of the **chat function** only if you encounter technical problems or in order to post information and links that are addressed during the discussion. Avoiding parallel conversations helps develop a shared conversation with all students and the professor.

Attendance policy: students are expected to attend *every* class. Video recordings are available as a make-up resource for missed classes, but they should not be considered equivalent to attending the class in person. More than two missed Videoconferences will lower the final grade by 0.25 points per missed meeting. Please inform the TA and the professor in advance if you cannot attend the VC.

### **Individual Phone Calls (IC)**

Each student will engage in a phone/zoom discussion with Prof. Lukic and Prof. Mazzini. The Calls will be scheduled approximately a week in advance; they last approximately 30 minutes. Students should come to the calls prepared to discuss the readings for that week and with a couple of questions about the reading to be discussed with the professor.

### Attendance policy:

If you need to reschedule your IC, please notify the professor in advance. Please reschedule only for urgent reasons and possibly within the designated IC week.

More than two missed ICs will lower the final grade by 0.25 points per missed meeting. Please inform the TA and the professor in advance if you cannot attend the IC.

(We suggest you add the scheduled IC to your calendar: in this way, you'll make sure not to miss it.)

### **Writing Assignments (WA)**

- Assignment 1 (5-8 pp double-spaced) Q Posted 3/06 Due 3/27 (Lukic)
- Assignment 2 (9-10 pp double-spaced) Q Posted 4/10 Due 4/24 (Mazzini)

- At set dates, Prof. Lukic and Prof. Mazzini will post a question online, to be answered in 5-8 pp (WA1) or 9-10 p (WA2), double-spaced.

- All questions should be addressed in terms of close reading and intertextual analysis, and 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 all around. 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 or .pages 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 students with whom you have worked on the question.
- Please use MLA style in your papers. Please also review the *IDSVA Writing Guide* (available in Canvas), especially Section VIII, for tips on discussion style, writing style and mechanics. Submitted documents should be uploaded through Assignments in Canvas, and the file named according to the following format:  
**family name, givenname\_704\_assignment #\_yymmdd**  
(e.g., "Jones, Sally\_704\_assignment 1\_180211").

## Assessment and Grading

- The course grade will be based on the average grade of your writing assignments (65 %; all must be completed); the grade for your collaboration work on OCF (10 %); the grade for your contributions to Videoconference seminars (10%) and the grade for your Individual Phone Call discussions (15%).
- Students are required to familiarize themselves with the Rubric for Short Papers Evaluation (available in Canvas), which will be used as a meter to assess final papers.
- Late submissions will not be graded unless prior arrangements have been made with Professor Lukic and Prof. Mazzini for a brief extension (made on a case-by-case basis in response to special circumstances). A grade reduction (0.25 points) may apply to late submissions. Extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis in response to special circumstances. For extensions exceeding two weeks after the due date at the end of the semester, students should request an Incomplete (see Student Handbook).
- Papers will be graded no later than two weeks after the deadline.

## Suggestions

1) You will notice that the reading schedule is very tight. It is important to have a good start on the readings *before* the semester starts. You should scan the texts to note the number of pages you will need to read per day in a given week to stay on schedule. If you find yourself running into trouble please notify the professor and the TA right away so we can strategize before the issue gets out of hand.

2) Some of the texts you will be reading are famously difficult. Do not skip! Even if you are reading long passages that seemingly make no sense, go on reading and we will make sense of them later.

## Recommended Texts

*Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Stanford Online. (See especially Plato & Aristotle on ethics & Kant's Moral Philosophy): <https://plato.stanford.edu/>.

Furrow, Dwight. *Ethics: Key Concepts in Philosophy*. New York: Continuum, 2005.  
ISBN: 9780826472458

*Correspondence 1949-1975: Martin Heidegger, Ernst Junger* (London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008). (ca. 100 p.) **PDF**

## Required Texts (in order of reading schedule):

Acquire the correct editions (listed below), confirming that the publisher, translator, and year are the same. If you intend to use an electronic version please make sure it is the correct edition. The available ISBN #s for the books are listed; this is another way you can search (although it is not always an exact science). '♦' indicates that the assigned reading is limited to certain selections.

**Nietzsche, Friedrich.** Edited by Keith Ansell-Pearson. *On the Genealogy of Morality*.

Translated by Carol Diethe. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2006. ♦ I and III essays; pp. 10-34; 68-120 **(76 pp.) PDF**

**Fanon, Frantz.** *Black Skin, White Masks*. Trans. Richard Philcox. New York: Grove Press, 2008. ISBN-10: 0-8021-4300-8, ISBN-13: 978-0-8021-4300-6. **(206 pp.)**

**Arendt, Hannah.** *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. London: Penguin Classics 2006, ♦ Chapters 8, 14, 15, Epilogue, Postscript; pp. 135-151, 220-298) **(94 pp.)**

*The Human Condition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998, ♦ Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 9; pp. 24-26, 7-17, 22-38, 175-188 **(41 pp.) PDF**

**Junger, Ernst.** *On Pain*, New York, Telos, [1934] 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0914386407, ISBN-10: 0914386409. (pp. 1-47). **(47 pp.)**

**Junger, Ernst.** "Total Mobilization," in *The Heidegger Controversy: A Critical Reader*, Boston, Mass., MIT Press, 1992. ISBN: 9780262731010. **(ca. 15 pp.)**

**Deleuze, Gilles and Felix Guattari.** *A Thousand Plateaus*. Trans. Brian Massumi. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987. ISBN 0-8166-1402-4 OR 0-8166-1401-6. ♦ Intro: "Rhizome," 3-26. **(23 pp.)**

*What is Philosophy?* ♦ Chapter 4, "Geophilosophy," 85-113. **(28 pp.) PDF**

**Didi-Huberman, Georges.** *Survival of the Fireflies*. Trans. Lia Swope Mitchell. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-5179-0574-3. **(107 pp.) PDF**

**Sloterdijk, Peter.** *In the World Interior of Capital. For a Philosophical Theory of Globalization.* ❖ Chapters 1-16, pp. 3-93; Chapters 28-33, pp.139-176. **(127 pp.) PDF**

**Berardi, Franco “Bifo.”** *Breathing: Chaos and Poetry*. Semiotext(e)/The MIT Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-63590-038-5. **PDF**

**Rancière, Jacques:** *Dissensus: On Politics and Aesthetics*, Ed. and Transl. By E. Corcoran, Continuum 2010 ❖ Read: Chapters 1, 9, 10, pp. 27-44, 134-151, 184-205 (55 pp.)

**Vattimo, Gianni:** *Art's Claim to Truth*, New York: Columbia University Press 2010 ❖ Read: Chapters 5,9, 10, 11; pp. 77-89, 139-165 (36 pp)

**Heidegger, Martin:** “The Question Concerning Technology,” in *Basic Writings*. Ed., David Farrell Krell. New York: HarperCollins, 1993. (pp. 307-341). **(61 pp.) PDF**

**Byung-Chul Han:** *The Burnout Society*, Stanford: Stanford University Press 2015 **(51 pp.)**

## Course Schedule\*

You should complete readings *before* the week they are listed, then *review* them in-depth during the assigned week. You are strongly advised to create a reading schedule for yourself and to block in time to complete *x* amount of pages every day (we indicated the number of pages for each week to facilitate this task).

Weeks: Monday-Sunday

VC= Video Conference

OCF= Open Class Forum (asynchronous written discussion in Canvas)

IC= Individual calls

## Section 1: Liberation (**Mazzini**)

**Week 1** (Jan 30-Feb 5)

**VC: Sunday 2/05, 2 pm - 4pm EST**

Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality* ❖ I and III essays, 10-34; 68-120 (76 pp.)

**Week 2** (Feb 6-12)**IC (TBD) + OCF**

Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* (206 pp.)

**Week 3** (Feb 13-19)**VC: Sunday, 2/19, 2 - 4pm EST**

Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* ❖ Chapters 8, 14, 15, Epilogue, Postscript; pp. 135-151, 220-298) (94 pp.)

*The Human Condition*, ❖ Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 9; pp. 24-26, 7-17, 22-38, 175-188 (41 pp.)

Section 2: Metaphors of the End (**Lukic**)**Week 4** (Feb 20-26)**VC: Wednesday, 2/22, 5-7 pm EST**

Deleuze & Guattari, *Thousand Plateaus* ❖ (Introduction: "Rhizome")

Deleuze & Guattari. What is Philosophy? ❖ (Chapter 4, "Geophilosophy," pp. 85-113)

**Week 5** (Feb 27-March 5)**OCF**

Junger, *On Pain* (pp. 1-47); "Total Mobilization" (ca. 15 pp.)

Suggested reading:

*Correspondence 1949-1975: Martin Heidegger, Ernst Junger*

**Assignment 1 Question Posted March 6, due March 27**

**Week 6** (March 6-12): **Spring Break**Section 3: Ends of man (**Lukic**)**Week 7** (March 13-19)**VC: Wednesday, 3/15, 5pm -7pm EST**

Didi-Huberman, *Survival of the Fireflies*

**Week 8** (March 20-26)**IC (TBS)**

Sloterdijk, *In the World Interior of Capital. For a Philosophical Theory of*

*Globalization* ❖ (Chapters 1-16, pp. 3-93)

**Assignment 1 due March 27**

**Week 9** (March 27-Apr 2)

**VC: Wednesday, 3/29, 5pm - 7pm EST + OCF**

Berardi, *Breathing: Chaos and Poetry*

+ continuation of Sloterdijk (Chapters 28-33, pp.139-176)

**Section 4: Art & Politics (Mazzini)**

**Week 10** (April 3-9)

**IC (TBS)**

Rancière, *Dissensus: On Politics and Aesthetics* ❖ Chapters 1, 9, 10, pp. 27-44, 134-151, 184-205 (51 pp.)

Vattimo, *Art's Claim to Truth* ❖ Read Chapters 5, 9, 10, 11; pp. 77-89, 139-165 (36 pp)

**Assignment 2 Question posted April 10, due April 24**

**Week 11** (April 10-16)

**VC: Sunday, 4/16, 2pm - 4pm EST**

Heidegger, "The Question Concerning Technology," ❖ pp. 307-341 (34 pp.)

Han: *The Burnout Society* (55 pp.)

**Week 12** (April 16-23)

**Reading Week – no class activity**

**Assignment 2 is due April 24**

**END OF SEMESTER**

\*Course schedule may be subject to change.