

Postmodernism and Contemporary Culture: Or, Philosophy Is / Not Music Video

CS – 300
San Francisco Art Institute
Spring 2016

Professor: Clark Buckner

Meeting time and place: Wednesday, 4:15 – 7:00, Room 20B
Office hours: By Appointment

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Course Requirements: Students are required to complete course readings, regularly attend classes, actively participate in class discussions, and complete three writing assignments.

(Note: *ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE!!*)

Writing Requirements: a) Midterm papers should be 6 - 8 double-spaced pages, with 10 – 12 pt font and reasonable margins. b) Final papers should be 10 - 12 double-spaced pages, with 10 – 12 pt font and reasonable margins. c) Final papers can develop upon and integrate the work begun in midterm papers. If so, it is assumed that they will be longer (say, 12 - 15 pgs). d) In all of your writing, longer quotations should be single-spaced and indented. e) Late papers will be docked a complete letter grade for every week they are overdue. f) Students will be granted one one-week extension on only one paper during the course of the semester.

Grade Breakdown:

- 1) Class attendance and participation - %10
- 2) In – class, final presentation, %10
- 3) Two writing assignments - %40 each

Required Texts: All assigned readings will be available for downloading as PDFs at: www.clarkbuckner.com under the menu, “Texts (for students)”

Restrictions: No computers or smart-phones in class.

Learning Outcomes:

- Enhanced critical thinking
- Enhanced written and verbal skills
- Broader conceptual vocabulary
- Enriched intellectual history

Syllabus

1. **Introduction** (Aug. 30th)
2. **The Postmodern Condition** (Sept. 6th)

Reading: (TRT: 43 pages)

Baudrillard, Jean. “Simulacra and Simulation,” pp. 1 – 45

Also:

Venturi, Robert. “Learning from Las Vegas”

Modernity and Modernism

3. Modern Autonomy and Liberal Democratic Pluralism (Sept. 13th)

Reading: (TRT: 53 pages)

John Stuart Mill,

- a. Excerpts from *Utilitarianism*, pp. 6 – 25
- b. Excerpts from *On Liberty*, pp. 1 – 16, 53 – 71

4. Masters of Suspicion: Modernist Theories of Original Difference (Sept. 20th)

Reading: (TRT: 34 pages)

Marx, Karl and Engels, Friedrich. "The Communist Manifesto," pp. 221 – 238

Freud, Sigmund. "Formulations on the Two Principles of Mental Functioning," pp. 218 – 226

Buckner, Clark. "Restoring the Question of the Meaning of Being: The Fundamental Concepts of Heidegger's Existential Phenomenology," pp. 1 - 9

Postmodernism

5. Deconstruction (Sept. 27th)

Reading: (TRT: TBD)

Buckner, Clark. "The Supplement at the Origin: Or, Deconstruction in a Nutshell" pp. 1- 5

Derrida, Jacques.

- o "Différance," from *Margins of Philosophy*, pp. 1 – 28
- o "Signature Event Context," pp. 80 - 109

midterm paper assigned

6. Foucault (and Butler) (Oct. 4th)

Reading: (TRT: 28pgs.)

Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish*, pp. 3 – 31

Also:

Butler, Judith. "Subjects of Sex / Gender / Desire," pp. 1 – 33

Kuhn, Thomas S. Excerpts from *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

7. Zizek, Lacan, and the Limits of Postmodernism (Oct. 11th)
(by way of the Coens Brothers)

Reading: (TRT: TBD.)

Buckner, Clark. "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Lacan"

Lacan, Jaques.

- o "The Mirror-Stage as Formative of the Function of the 'I'"
- o "The Signification of the Phallus"

Also:

Habermas, Jurgen. "Modernity: An Incomplete Project" pp. 1 - 14

Jameson, Fredrick. "Postmodernism and Consumer Culture," 1 - 16

Contemporary Culture**8. Post-Production, Or, Deconstruction and Contemporary Art** (Oct. 18th)

Reading: (TRT: 33pgs)

Bourriaud, Nicholas. Introduction to *Post-production*, pp. 13 - 21

Greenberg, Clement

- o "Avant-Garde and Kitsch," pp. 5 – 22
- o "Modernist Painting, pp. 85 – 93

MIDTERM PAPER DUE

9. Video Art, Visual Culture, & the Expanded Field of Curatorial Practice(Oct. 25th)

Reading: (TRT: TBD)

Buckner, Clark. "The Experimental Conditions of Exhibition Practice," pp. 104 - 108

Joselit, David. Excerpts from *Television Against Democracy*, pp. TBD

final paper assigned

10. Multi-Culturalism, Postmodern Pluralism, and Identity Politics (Nov. 1st)

Reading: (TRT: 59)

hooks, bell. "A Revolution of Values: The Promise of Multicultural Change," pp. 233 - 240

Homi K. Bhabha, "The Postcolonial and the Postmodern," pp. 245 – 282

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, "Identity Politics," pp. 1 – 15

Also:

Baldwin, James. "Sonny's Blues," from *Going to Meet the Man: Stories*

11. Antagonism and Relational Aesthetics (Nov. 8th)

Reading: (TRT: TBD)

Bishop, Claire. "Antagonism and Relational Aesthetics," pp. 51 - 79

Bourriaud, Nicholas. Excerpts from *Relational Aesthetics*, pp. TBD

*** final paper abstracts due ***

After Postmodernity?**12. Postmodernism and / as Neo-Liberalism** (Nov. 15th)

Reading: (TRT: TBD)

Boltanski, Luc and Chiapello, Eve. Excerpts from *The New Spirit of Capitalism*, pp. TBD

- 13. Globalization and Altermodernity** (Nov 22nd)
- Reading: (TRT: 45pgs)
Steger, Manfred B. *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*, Ch. 3: The Economic Dimensions of Globalization, and Ch. 4: The Political Dimensions of Globalization, pp. 38 – 83
- 14. Oral Presentations #1** (No 28th)
- 15. Oral Presentations #2** (May 5th)
- FINAL PAPER DUE