

Tutorial: Marx, Nietzsche, Freud: The Foundations of Cultural Criticism

Professor: Alan Schrift
Office: Steiner 311
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Office Hours: T-TH 2:30 -3:30; W 1:30-3:00; and by appointment

Required Texts

Tucker, ed. *The Marx-Engels Reader* (Norton)
Nietzsche: *The Nietzsche Reader* (Blackwell)
Freud: *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*
Civilization and its Discontents

Graff and Birkenstein, *They Say I Say* (Norton) -- Optional

Course Objectives

For many theorists and philosophers of the 20th Century, the thought and writings of Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Sigmund Freud laid the foundation for a wide variety of approaches to the critique of culture. In this tutorial, we will examine several key texts by Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud. While exploring some of the major themes of these three thinkers, we will also attend to the historical conditions out of which their ideas emerged, evaluate what they tell us about the origins of contemporary society and the possibilities of social transformation, and question whether their critical perspectives still retain their relevance as resources for the criticism of developments in contemporary culture.

Course Requirements (percentage of final grade in parentheses):

1. **Papers:** Four papers will be assigned. Late papers will **NOT** be accepted. Exceptions to this policy will be made only for medical reasons. (45%)
2. **Notes:** For each of the three thinkers we will examine:
 - Choose a 1-2 sentence quote: discuss what it means, why it is significant, and why you agree with it/think it is correct.
 - Choose a 1-2 sentence quote: discuss what it means, why it is significant, and why you disagree with it/think it is not correct.

The quote you discuss should come from a reading selection we have not yet discussed during class. It can come from the assigned reading, or can be a passage of your choice that wasn't part of the assigned reading. The two notes for each thinker should not be submitted during the same week, and must be submitted before we finish with that author (Marx notes by Sept. 24; Freud by Oct. 15, Nietzsche by Dec. 3). (15%)
3. **Oral Presentation:** Students will present a 3-5 minute interpretation/explication of one of the sections of Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*, and will respond to questions about that section. (5%)
4. **Annotated Bibliography:** Students will produce an annotated bibliography on the basis of what is done during the library workshop. (10%)
5. **Class Participation:** Active class participation is expected. This means you should come to class having done all of the assigned reading. In addition to participating in class, you will be asked to submit a post by 8:00pm (question) or 11:00pm (response/comment) on the day before class to the class "Discussion Board" on Blackboard. (25%)
6. **Attendance:** You are **expected** to attend class. More than **3** unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.

- Aug. 27 INTRODUCTION
- Sept. 1 MARX: “Preface to *Contribution to Critique of Political Economy*” (pp. 3-6)
 “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel” (pp. 53-54)
 “Theses on Feuerbach” (pp. 143-145)
First Writing Assignment: State and explain a central thesis of Marx (one page)
- Sept. 3 MARX: “1844 Manuscripts: Estranged Labor” (pp. 70-82)
- Sept. 8 Writing Workshop with Claire Moisan, Writing Lab.
 Read *Academic Honesty* Booklet
- Sept. 10 MARX: “1844 Manuscripts: The Power of Money (pp. 101-105)
 Selections from *Capital* (pp. 319-329)
Turn in Academic Honesty Exercise.
- Sept. 15 MARX: Selections from *The German Ideology* (pp. 148-163)
 Sept. 17 MARX: Selections from *The German Ideology* (pp. 172-175; 192-193)
Second Writing Assignment: Summarize Marx’s account of the materialist basis of our ideas. Do you agree with his account? Why or why not? (2-3 pages)
- Sept. 22 MARX: *The Communist Manifesto*, Parts I (pp. 469-483)
 Sept. 24 MARX: *The Communist Manifesto*, Parts II (pp. 483-491, 499-500)
- Sept. 29 FREUD: *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*, pp. 9-46
 Oct. 1 FREUD: *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*, pp. 9-46
- Oct. 6 FREUD: *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*, pp. 79-97
 Oct. 8 FREUD: *Civilization and its Discontents*, Chap. I-IV (pp. 10-63)
- Oct. 13 FREUD: *Civilization and its Discontents*, Chap. I-IV (pp. 10-63)
 Oct. 15 FREUD: *Civilization and its Discontents*, Chap. V-VIII (pp. 64-112)
Third Writing Assignment: Freud doubts that human beings can be happy living in a civilized society. How does he come to this conclusion? (Your answer should involve some discussion of his theory of drives.) Do you agree with Freud’s argument? Give reasons for your answer. (3 pages)
- Oct. 17-25 FALL BREAK**
- Oct. 26-30 NO CLASS. Individual Writing Appointments with Claire Moisan. Schedule on PioneerWeb
- Nov. 3 NIETZSCHE: “On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense” (114-20)
Submit revised Third Writing Assignment on Freud (3 pages)
- Nov. 5 NIETZSCHE: *Twilight of the Idols* (pp. 456-65)
- Nov. 10 NIETZSCHE: *Twilight of the Idols* (pp. 465-85)
 Nov. 12 Library Workshop (with Richard Fyffe): See Appendix I
- Nov. 17 NIETZSCHE: *Beyond Good and Evil* (pp. 311-24)
 Nov. 19 NIETZSCHE: *Beyond Good and Evil* (pp. 354-61)
- Nov. 24 NIETZSCHE: *On the Genealogy of Morals*, First Essay (pp. 395-407)
- Nov. 25-28 THANKSGIVING BREAK**
- Dec. 1 NIETZSCHE: *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay (pp. 408-24)
Fourth Writing Assignment: Choose one aphorism from *Twilight or Beyond Good and Evil*, offer an explication of it, and then discuss its pertinence to contemporary culture (3 pages).
- Dec. 3 NIETZSCHE: *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay (pp. 408-24)
- Dec. 8 & 10 NIETZSCHE: *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Third Essay (pp. 424-35)

APPENDIX I

Nov. 12 Library Workshop Assignment

1. Find 4 important scholarly books written about Nietzsche. On the basis of what criteria did you determine these books to constitute “important” scholarly sources?
2. Find 3 journal articles on Nietzsche published since 2000: one from a philosophy journal; one from a journal that typically publishes work from scholars who are not philosophers; and one from an interdisciplinary journal.
3. Find one website that posts information on Nietzsche that you think is respectable scholarship. On what basis did you make this determination?
4. Find one website that posts information on Nietzsche that you think is not respectable scholarship. On what basis did you make this determination?
5. Produce an annotated bibliography, according to Chicago or MLA Style, in which the works you have located are listed, under the headings “Texts,” “Journal Articles,” and “Websites.” In your annotation, you do not need to summarize the content of the works you list, but you should provide some explanation of the basis on which you selected them in response to the four previous points.

The annotated bibliography should be sent to me electronically at schrift@grinnell.edu by 5pm Friday, Nov. 13

Citing sources:

There are a number of different systems for citing sources in a research paper. In Humanities fields, the most popular are the Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) and the MLA (Modern Language Association) guide. Personally, I prefer the Chicago Manual of Style, and that is the system I would like you to use for your papers in the tutorial. But in general, the most important thing about citation format is to **be consistent**. There are several websites that provide the basic format for citations. Two that I've found that are particularly good are:

Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

The site at Purdue has several styles, and also a lot of useful information, so I'd suggest you familiarize yourself with that site and refer to it whenever you have questions about citation format. For ease of reference, what follows are some examples of the more common citations from the CMS (taken from the OWL at Purdue). Please take note of the punctuation!

Books

Footnote or Endnote (N):

1. Firstname Lastname, *Title of book* (Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication), page number.

Corresponding Bibliographical Entry (B):

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of book*. Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication.

Book by One Author

N:

1. William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom!* (New York: Vintage Books, 1990), 271.

B:

Faulkner, William. *Absalom, Absalom!*. New York: Vintage Books, 1990.

Book by Two or Three Authors

N:

2. Scott Lash and John Urry, *Economies of Signs & Space* (London: SAGE Publications, 1994), 241-251.

B:

Lash, Scott and John Urry. *Economies of Signs & Space*. London: SAGE Publications, 1994.

Translated Work with One Author

N:

3. Julio Cortázar, *Hopscotch*, translated by Gregory Rabassa (New York: Pantheon Books, 1966), 165.

B:

Cortázar, Julio. *Hopscotch*. Translated by Gregory Rabassa. New York: Pantheon Books, 1966.

Book with Author and Editor

N:

4. Edward B. Tylor, *Researches into the Early Development of Mankind and the Development of Civilization*, edited by Paul Bohannan (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964), 194.

B:

Tylor, Edward B. *Researches into the Early Development of Mankind and the Development of Civilization*, edited by Paul Bohannan. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964

Article, Chapter, Essay, Short Story, etc., in an Edited Collection

N:

5. Peter Chilson, "The Border," in *The Best American Travel Writing 2008*, edited by Anthony Bourdain (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008), 46.

B:

Chilson, Peter. "The Border." *In The Best American Travel Writing 2008*, edited by Anthony Bourdain, 44-51. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008.

Introduction in a Book

N:

6. Steven Pinker, introduction to *What is Your Dangerous Idea?*, edited by John Brockman (New York: Harper Perennial, 2007), xxv.

B:

Pinker, Steven. Introduction to *What is Your Dangerous Idea?*, edited by John Brockman. New York: Harper Perennial, 2007.

Journals

Notes and Bibliographic entries for a journal include the following: Author's name, article title, journal title and issue information. Issue information refers to volume, issue number or month, year, and page numbers. For online works, retrieval information and the date of access are also included.

N:

1. Susan Peck MacDonald, "The Erasure of Language," *College Composition and Communication* 58, no. 4 (2007): 619.

B:

MacDonald, Susan Peck. "The Erasure of Language." *College Composition and Communication* 58, no 4 (2007): 585-625.

Some things to note: Bibliographic entries include the first and last pages of the article. The Article Title is placed within quotation marks and the Journal Title is italicized. The volume number follows the journal title with no punctuation, the issue number (if it is given) is separated from the volume number with a comma and is preceded by "no," and the year appears in parenthesis after the volume number (or issue number if given). The year may be preceded by a specific date, month, or season if given.

Citing electronic journals generally follows the same format that explained in the Journals section. Additionally, entries include the URL and the date accessed, especially if the material is time sensitive. The access date is included in parenthesis after the URL and is preceded by "accessed."

N:

1. Henry E. Bent, "Professionalization of the Ph.D. Degree," *College Composition and Communication* 58, no. 4 (2007): 141, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1978286> (accessed December 5, 2008).

B:

Bent, Henry E. Bent, "Professionalization of the Ph.D. Degree," *College Composition and Communication* 58, no. 4 (2007): 0-145. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1978286> (accessed December 5, 2008).