

GMST 410/550, cross-listed as CSPT 500

Fall 2016

TWT 10:30-11:20 MAC D111

Adorno, Benjamin and Frankfurt School Critical Theory

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-2:20 and Friday 12:30-1:30; or by appointment

Course Description

The aim of this cross-listed undergraduate/graduate course is to introduce students to Frankfurt School Critical Theory through the writings of some of the School's leading foundational figures as well as through an exploration of facets of cultural modernism and the German social and political context of the Weimar Period, Fascism and the reconfiguration of the public sphere in the 1950s and 1960s. Considerable emphasis will be placed on the writings on Theodor W. Adorno and Walter Benjam, but we will also cover writings of Max Horkheimer, Herbert Marcuse and Jürgen Habermas. For the purposes of exploring some of the cultural implications of Critical Theory, these philosophical writings will at times be juxtaposed with art, film and literature, in particular writings of Brecht, Kafka, Celan and Enzensberger.

Required Readings

Readings at the bookstore:

Adorno, *Minima Moralia*

Adorno/Horkheimer, *The Dialectic of Enlightenment*

All other readings are available on Course Spaces; please consult the syllabus.

Course Evaluation

Participation	15%
3 Reflections (5% each)	15%
Midterm Paper	30%
Final Paper	40%

Grade Scheme

90-100 A+	77-79 B+	65-69 C+
85-89 A	73-76 B	60-64 C
80-84 A-	70-72 B-	50-59 D
		0-49 F

To familiarize yourself with the UVic grading guidelines, please consult the [University Calendar](#).

GMST 465/565, CSPT 500 Syllabus

<p style="text-align: center;">Week of Sept. 6-9 Situating the Frankfurt School Historically and Philosophically</p>
<p>Required Readings (available on Course Spaces) Max Horkheimer, “The Present Situation of Social Philosophy and the Tasks of an Institute for Social Research” Theodor W. Adorno <i>Minima Moralia</i>, “Dedication”, “Finale” Karl Marx, <i>Capital</i>, Vol. 1 – “The Commodity”</p> <p>Recommended Reading Martin Jay, <i>The Dialectical Imagination</i>, Introduction, Chapters 1,2 (ideally the entire book): http://quod.lib.umich.edu.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=acls;idno=heb00152.0001.001</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week of Sept. 13-16 Dialectics, Marxism and the Concept of Enlightenment</p>
<p>Required Readings Karl Marx, <i>Capital</i>, Vol. 1 – “The Commodity” Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” Adorno/Horkheimer, <i>Dialectic of Enlightenment</i>, Ch. 1, “The Concept of Enlightenment”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week of Sept. 20-23 Enlightenment, Myth, the Bourgeois</p>
<p>Required Readings Adorno/Horkheimer, <i>Dialectic of Enlightenment</i>, Ch. 1 Adorno/Horkheimer, <i>Dialectic of Enlightenment</i>, Excursus I, “Odysseus or Myth and Enlightenment”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week of Sept. 27-30 Modernism I: Art and Modern Technology</p>
<p>Required Readings Walter Benjamin, “The Artwork in the Age of its Technical Reproduction” Adorno: “Of the Fetish Character of Music and the Regression of Listening”</p> <p>Film Screening <i>Berlin Symphony of a Metropolis</i> (dir. Walter Ruttmann) <i>Kuhle Wampe</i> (Brecht/Eisler)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week of Oct. 4-7 Modernism II: Art and/as Politics</p>
<p>Required Readings, Critical Theory Benjamin, “What is Epic Theater?” and other texts on Brecht Adorno, “On the Social Situation of Music” & “Mahagonny”</p> <p>Required Reading, Literature Bertolt Brecht, <i>The Threepenny Opera</i> and <i>Mahagonny</i> (excerpts)</p> <p>Music Schoenberg, <i>Pierrot Lunaire</i> and <i>George-Lieder</i></p>

Week of Oct. 11-14 Modernism II: Art and/as Politics
<p>The readings of the previous week apply for this week, additionally</p> <p>Required Readings Sean Carney, <i>Brecht and Critical Theory: Dialectics and Contemporary Aesthetics</i> (excerpt, posted on Course Spaces) Frederic Jameson, <i>Brecht and Method</i> (excerpts, posted on Course Spaces)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Midterm Paper Due</p>
Week of Oct. 18-21 Modernism III: Narrators, Listeners, Characters
<p>Required Readings, Critical Theory Benjamin, “The Storyteller” & “Some Reflections on Kafka”</p> <p>Required Readings, Literature Franz Kafka, “The Hunger Artist”</p>
Week Oct. 25-28 Fascism and the Holocaust
<p>Required Readings Adorno, <i>Minima Moralia</i> (excerpts)</p>
Week of Nov. 1-4 The Analysis of Totalitarianism and/as Capitalism
<p>Required Readings Horkheimer, “The Authoritarian State” Adorno/Horkheimer, <i>The Dialectic of Enlightenment</i>, “Elements of Anti-Semitism” Readings: Adorno/Horkheimer, <i>The Dialectic of Enlightenment</i>, “The Culture Industry”</p>
Week of Nov. 8-11 The Frankfurt School after the Rebuilding I: The (Im)Possibilities of Art after Auschwitz
<p>Reading Break Nov. 9-11</p> <p>Required Readings Adorno, “Cultural Criticism and Society”</p>
Week Nov. 15-18 The (Im)Possibilities of Art after Auschwitz
<p>Required Readings, Critical Theory Adorno, “Commitment” Paul Celan, “Meridian”</p> <p>Required Readings, Poetry Paul Celan, selected poems Bertolt Brecht, selected poems</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Graduate Students: Abstract Due</p>

Week Nov. 22-25 The Frankfurt School after the Rebuilding II: The (Im)Possibilities of Revolutionary Political Praxis in Post-Capitalism
Required Readings, Critical Theory Jürgen Habermas, <i>The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere</i> (excerpts)
Required Readings, Literature Hans Magnus Enzensberger, “The Stones of Freedom”; selected poetry
Week Nov. 29-Dec. 2 The (Im)Possibilities of Revolutionary Political Praxis in Post-Capitalism
Required Reading Herbert Marcuse, <i>One-Dimensional Man</i> (excerpts)

Course Work

Participation

GMST 465/565 is a seminar course that emphasises close textual reading of challenging philosophical and literary texts. Active participation in the course is key both to the success of the course and to your own learning success. While regular attendance is a precondition for active participation, you are not receiving an attendance mark, but are graded for the degree of preparation with which you come to class and the quality of contributions you make. Depending on the class make-up, the graduate students may be assigned a specific peer-teaching task that will be factored into their participation mark.

Reflections

These assignments are designed to help you unpack the texts that we will cover in the course. The reflections are **max. 2** pages long and are to contain questions, thoughts about and analysis and comparisons of the texts you are reading. You have to submit four reflections, but only the three best will be factored into your final grade. The reflections are due the week after the assigned reading.

Midterm Paper

The midterm paper is due on **October 14**. The purpose of the midterm paper is to offer a close reading and critical analysis of any one of the texts covered up to that point.

Undergraduate students submit a paper of **max. 5 pages** in length and do not need to include secondary sources.

Graduate students submit a paper of **8 pages** length and must include 3-5 secondary sources.

Final Paper

The final paper is due on **December 15**. It is a larger research paper on a topic of your choice. Suggested paper topics will be distributed at the end of October.

Undergraduate students submit a paper of **8 pages** in length and must include 5 secondary sources.

Graduate students submit a paper of **15-18 pages** in length, and they also must submit a **1-page** abstract and annotated bibliography (**due on Nov. 18**) with 5-10 secondary sources. I will return these a week later with feedback.

Course Policies

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. RCSD staff members are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Concessions and Documentation

Students may ask for an academic concession, such as rescheduling a quiz or test or an extension for an assignment, upon providing proper documentation of a personal or medical affliction or of a time conflict. Proper documentation would include a doctor's note or a memo from Counseling Services, or a memo from a coach, employer or faculty member. It must be dated before or close to the time of the missed work or classes.

Withdrawals and Deferrals

Students who miss substantial amounts of class and assignments without documentation will be asked to withdraw, or will receive an 'N' at the end of the semester. Even when the reasons for failing to meet course requirements are valid, it is not academically sound to allow students missing significant amounts of work to continue in the course. Students are to familiarize themselves with the withdrawal dates in the current academic calendar.

A Note on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Actions such as plagiarism, multiple submissions, falsifying materials used in academic evaluations, cheating or aiding others to cheat violate University policies on academic integrity and are considered serious offence. You must inform yourself about the university regulations (see UVic Policy on Academic Integrity).

Classroom Conduct

Since the quality of the learning environment is paramount, every student has the right to learn and your instructor has the duty to perform his or her teaching duties in a cooperative, distraction-free and effective manner.

Activities that could disrupt the learning environment for you and your instructor would include the non-academic use of electronic devices. Students are expected to turn off their cell phones, PDAs and mp3 players during class. The use of laptops is not necessary in the dynamic and participatory environment of a language class.

Add/Drop Deadlines

It is the student's responsibility to attend to ADD/DROP dates as published in the Calendar and the Undergraduate Registration Guide and Timetable. You will not be dropped automatically from a class that you do not attend.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://ces.uvic.ca>. You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

1. What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
2. Please provide specific suggestions as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.
3. Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved