Arts, Culture, and Civil Society

This course will examine the arts, culture, and civil society as important theoretical concerns for contemporary social criticism, political theory, and cultural policy-making. Ranging from the nature of current-day urban formations, nation-states, and local communities to the analysis of power, modernity, and discourse as tied to the arts, a key concern in this class is familiarizing one with a range of approaches analytical to politics, culture, and the arts in contemporary global society. The goals of the course are to provide:

1) Introduce ideas and practices of critical cultural analysis with regard to art, civil society, and contemporary culture.

2) Provide an overview of arts and culture practices in the USA and other nation-states with regard to their impact on civil society, political community, and economic growth.

3) Develop a basic sense of the major theoretical debates and conceptual problems in arts and culture analysis.

4) Outline the complex relationships between the local, regional, national, and global economy that the arts and culture organizations play in maintaining the working of civil society as well as the processes of economic growth.

5) Build a practical sense of how culture and arts organizations operate as nonprofit entities and build contacts between local organizations and the cultural community.

6) Position the politics of the arts, culture, and civil society during global economic change, including the neo-liberal local, national, and transnational structuring of space, class, and exchange.

The seminar format of the course will emphasize class discussion and critical writing. All members of the class will be expected to participate actively in the course by doing the assigned readings and contributing to class discussion. Parts of the course might be conducted online during times that the instructor is traveling to meetings or for lectures.

Student grades will be based upon the following guidelines:

(1) An analytical study of a specific arts, culture, and civil society project in action or a more interpretive theoretical essay of 15-20 typed pages (40%). The paper topic must be discussed with me in advance to approve the topic, otherwise the paper will not be accepted. This assignment is an opportunity for you to do some additional research on a subject or theme in political or social theory that interests you, and it will be due near the end of the semester.
(2) A short book critique of 6-8 typed pages (20%). This critique is intended to sharpen your critical faculties by thoroughly reviewing, criticizing, and discussing a work of political or social theory.

(3) Weekly reading journals on the assigned texts of 1-3 typed pages (20%). These essays are meant for you to clarify your thoughts on the reading, develop ideas for class discussion, and maintain a dialogue with the instructor.

(4) Seminar participation during the semester (20%). This exercise is aimed at familiarizing you with the presentation of careful theoretical arguments and criticisms in an audience of your peers. This requirement is directed at encouraging active involvement in the course’s assigned readings and on-going discussion.

REQUIRED READINGS

2. Jean Baudrillard, *For a Critique of the Political Economy of the Sign*
3. Pierre Bourdieu, *The Field of Cultural Production*
4. Tyler Cowen, *In Praise of Commercial Culture*
7. Richard Florida, *The Rise of the Creative Class*
8. David Harvey, *Spaces of Global Capitalism: A Theory of Uneven Geographical Development*
9. Friedrich A. Kittler, *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*
11. Herbert Marcuse, *The Aesthetic Dimension: Toward a Critique of Marxist Aesthetics*
12. Kylie Message, *New Museums and the Making of Culture*
14. Paul Virilio, *Art and Fear*
RECOMMENDED READINGS

Walter Benjamin, The Arcades Project
William Connolly, The Ethos of Pluralization
Tyler Cowen, Good & Plenty-The Creative Successes of American Arts Funding
Ronald J. Deibert, Parchment, Printing and Hypermedia
Klaus Eder, The New Politics of Class
Hugh Genoways, Museum Philosophy for the Twenty-first Century
Joli Jensen, Is Art Good for US?: Beliefs about High Culture in American Life
Amitava Kumar and Michael Ryan, The Politics of Culture
Timothy W. Luke, Museum Politics: Power Plays at the Exhibition
Robert B. Putnam, Bowling Alone
J. Mark Schuster, Informing Cultural Policy: The Research and Information Infrastructure
Bruce A. Seaman, National Investment in the Arts
Elizabeth Strom, Strengthening Communities through Culture

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED READINGS

Theodor W. Adorno, Negative Dialectics
Ben Agger, Fast Capitalism
Richard Bernstein, The Restructuring of Social and Political Theory
Manuel Castells, The Information Age, Vol. I-III.
John Forester, ed., Critical Theory and Public Life
Raymond Geuss, The Idea of a Critical Theory
Anthony Giddens, Central Problems in Social Theory
Juergen Habermas, The Theory of Communicative Action
Max Horkheimer, The Eclipse of Reason
Andreas Huysen, After the Great Divide
Martin Jay, Marxism and Totality
Timothy W. Luke, Screens of Power
Herbert Marcuse, One-Dimensional Man
James O’Connor, Accumulation Crisis
Claus Offe, Disorganized Capitalism
Mark Poster, Foucault, Marxism and History
Mark Poster, The Mode of Information
Eugene Rochberg-Halton, Meaning and Modernity
Michael Sandel, Liberalism and the Limits of Justice

PROJECTED COURSE OUTLINE OF COURSE THEMES

I. Introduction: Art, Culture, and Civil Society
II. The Neoliberal Present
III. Politics, Power, and Prestige
IV. Civil Society
V. Culture
VI. The Arts
VII. Consumption, Design, and Society
VIII. Mediations/Remediations
IX. Art, Machines, Intellectuals
X. BOOK CRITIQUE
XI. Country and Culture
XII. Urbanity/Creativity as Culture Industries
XIII. Commercial Culture
XIV. Globalization/Cosmopolitanism
XV. Museums: Managers, Moralities, Monies, and Monuments
XVI. Conclusion: Everyday Life in the Modern World
XVII. FINAL PAPER

READING ASSIGNMENTS

I. 8.21.07 Introduction: Art, Culture, and Civil Society

**Required:** Clifford, Geertz, “Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture”
http://www.iwp.uni-linz.ac.at/lxe/sektktf/gg/GeertzTexts/Thick_Description.htm
Stuart Hall, “Cultural Studies: Two Paradigms”
http://mcs.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/2/1/57 (Available through the library-VT network)
Raymond Williams, Moving from High Culture to Ordinary Culture
http://www.wsu.edu/gened/learn-modules/top_culture/culture-definitions/raymond-williams.html (Short Excerpt)

**Recommended:** Walter Benjamin, Illuminations: Essays and Reflections
Theodor Adorno, The Culture Industry
Perry Anderson, A Zone of Engagement
Martin Calinesco, The Five Faces of Modernity
Frederic Jameson, A Singular Modernity: Essay on the Ontology of the Present
Henri Lefebvre, Introduction to Modernity

II. 8.28.07 The Neoliberal Present

**Required:** David Harvey, Spaces of Capitalism

**Recommended:** David Harvey, The New Imperialism
Aihwa Ong, Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty
Richard Sennet, The Culture of the New Capitalism
Alain Touraine, Beyond Neoliberalism
III. 9.4.07  Politics, Power, and Prestige

Required: Pierre Bourdieu, The Field of Cultural Production

Recommended: Michel Foucault, “Abnormal,” Lectures at the Collège de France 1974-1975
Michel Foucault, “Society Must Be Defended,” Lecture at the Collège de France 1975-1976
Michel Foucault, “The Hermeneutics of the Subject,” Lectures at the Collège de France 1981-1982
Max Weber: “Politics as a Vocation”:
   http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~lridener/DSS/Weber/polvoc.html
Max Weber, The Methodology of the Social Sciences

IV. 9.11.07  Civil Society

Required: John Ehrenberg, Civil Society, ix-250

Recommended: Michael Edwards, Civil Society
Adam Ferguson, An Essay on the History of Civil Society
   http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/~econ/ugcm/3ll3/ferguson/civil.html
   http://www.constitution.org/africa/civil.htm
G.W.F., The Philosophy of Right
   http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/pr/preivils.htm
David Hume, “Of the Original Contract”
   http://www.constitution.org/dh/origcont.htm
Frederick Jameson, “The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism”
John Locke, Second Treatise on Civil Government
   http://www.constitution.org/jl/2ndtreat.htm
Karl Marx, Capital, Vols I-III
   http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-cl/index.htm
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, A Dissertation On the Origin and Foundation of The Inequality of Mankind and is it Authorized by Natural Law?
   http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/economics/rousseau/inequality/ch01.htm (first part)
   http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/rousseau-inequality1-2.html (first and second part)
   http://www.constitution.org/jjr/ineq_04.htm (second part)
Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations
V. 9.18.07  **Culture**

**Required:** Michel De Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*, ix-203

**Recommended:** Immanuel Kant, *The Critique of Judgement*  
Immanuel Kant, *An Answer to the Question: “What is Enlightenment?”*  
[http://philosophy.eserver.org/kant/what-is-enlightenment.txt](http://philosophy.eserver.org/kant/what-is-enlightenment.txt)  
Edmund Burke, *Sublime and Beautiful*  
Friedrich Schiller, *On the Sublime*  
Friedrich Schiller, *On the Aesthetic Education of Man*  

VI. 9.25.07  **The Arts**

**Required:** Herbert Marcuse, *The Aesthetic Dimension*, ix-82

**Recommended:** Matthew Arnold, *Culture Is “High Culture”*  
[http://www.wsu.edu/gened/learn-modules/top_culture/culture-definicions/arnold-text.html](http://www.wsu.edu/gened/learn-modules/top_culture/culture-definicions/arnold-text.html) (short excerpt)  
Leo Lowenthal, *Sociology of Literature*  
Georg Lukács, *The Theory of the Novel*  
Georg Lukács, *The Moral Mission of the Communist Party*  
Georg Lukács, *History & Class Consciousness*  
[http://www.marxists.org/archive/lukacs/works/history/index.htm](http://www.marxists.org/archive/lukacs/works/history/index.htm)  
Leo Tolstoy, *What Is Art?*  
[http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361r14.html](http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361r14.html)  
Leon Trotsky, *Literature and Art*  
[http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/work/sart/index.htm](http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/work/sart/index.htm)  
Herbert Marcuse, *Art as a Form of Reality*  

VII. 10.2.07  **Consumption, Design, and Society**

**Required:** Jean Baudrillard, *For a Critique of the Political Economy of the Sign*, 5-212

**Recommended:** Reyner Banham, *Theory and Design in the First Machine Age*  
Jean Baudrillard, *The Consumer Society*  
Virginia Postrel, *The Substance of Style*  
Sigfried Giedion, *Space, Time, and Architecture*  
Henri Lefebvre, *The Everyday and Everydayness*  
[http://www.jstor.org/view/00440078/dm991162/99p0020i/0](http://www.jstor.org/view/00440078/dm991162/99p0020i/0)
VIII. 10.9.07 **Mediations/Remediations**

**Required**: Friedrich Kittler, *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*, xi-263

**Recommended**: Friedrich Kittler, *Discourse Networks 1800/1900*
Matthew Fuller, *Media Ecologies*
Fredric Jameson, *Archaeologies of the Future: The Desire Called Utopia and Other Science Fictions*
Manuel De Landa, *A Thousand Years of Nonlinear History*
Jacques Derrida, *Paper Machine*
N. Katherine Hayles, *Virtual Bodies and Flickering Signifiers*
  [http://www.jstor.org/view/01622870/ap030064/03a00040/0](http://www.jstor.org/view/01622870/ap030064/03a00040/0)
Friedrich A. Kittler, *Fiction and Simulation*
Geoffrey Winthrop-Young, *Drill and Distraction in the Yellow Submarine: On the Dominance of War in Friedrich Kittler's Media Theory*
  [http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/cgi/resolve?id=doi:10.1086/341236](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/cgi/resolve?id=doi:10.1086/341236)

IX. 10.16.07 **Art, Machines, Intellectuals**

Paul Virilio, *Art and Fear*, vii-ix, 1-96

**Recommended**: James A. Clapp, *This Urban Life: Writing about Cities for Multiple Media*
Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums*
Richard Florida, *Cities and the Creative Class*
Allen J. Scott, *The Cultural Economy of Cities*
Allen J. Scott, *Globalization and the Rise of City-regions*
  [http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/index/ARB4DB8AW7ME0KPL.pdf](http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/index/ARB4DB8AW7ME0KPL.pdf)
Allen J. Scott, *A New Map of Hollywood: The Production and Distribution of American Motion Pictures*
  [http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/index/A0U628X57E3PG5Q1.pdf](http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/index/A0U628X57E3PG5Q1.pdf)
Allen J. Scott, *The other Hollywood: the organizational and geographic bases of television-program production*
  [http://mcs.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/26/2/183](http://mcs.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/26/2/183)

X. 10.19.07 **BOOK CRITIQUE DUE**

XI. 10.23.07 **Country and Culture**


**Recommended**: Benjamin Filene, *Romancing the Folk: Public Memory & American Roots Music*
Aaron A. Fox, *Real Country: Music and Language in Working-Class Culture*
Barney Hoskyns, *Hotel California*
Michael Kosser, How Nashville Became Music City U.S.A.: 50 Years of Music Row

XII. 10.30.07 **Urbanity/Creativity as Culture Industries**

**Required:** Richard Florida, The Rise of the Creative Class, xiii-382

**Recommended:** Chris Rojek, Celebrity
Tracy C. Davis and Thomas Postlewait, Theatricality
Joseph Roach, Cities of the Dead
Franco Moretti, Signs Taken for Wonders: On the Sociology of Literary Forms
Richard Florida, The Flight of the Creative Class
Richard Florida, Cities and the Creative Class
Richard Florida, Competing In The Age Of Talent: Quality Of Place And The New Economy
http://www.sactaqc.org/Resources/Literature/Economic_Vitality/QofPlace.pdf
Sam Youl Lee, Richard Florida and Zoltan Ac, Creativity and Entrepreneurship: A Regional Analysis of New Firm Formation
http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/index/U71D942URJGW8G7B.pdf

XIII. 11.6.07 **Commercial Culture**

**Required:** Tyler Cowen, In Praise of Commercial Culture, 1-210

Tyler Cowen and Alexander Tabarrok, An Economic Theory of Avant Garde and Popular Art, or High and Low Culture
http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0038-4038(200010)67%3A2%3C232%3AAETOAA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-X
Tyler Cowen, Why Women Succeed and Fail in the Arts
http://www.springerlink.com/content/x7u15u4858025q42/
Tyler Cowen, Do Artists Suffer from a Cost-Disease?
http://rss.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/8/1/5
Tyler Cowen, The Arts in a Market Economy
http://www.ccs.in/ecsindia/lacs/4the_arts_in_a_market_economy.pdf
Tyler Cowen, Symbolic Goods: The Liberal State in Pursuit of Art and Beauty

**Recommended:**

State Links:

http://arts.state.wi.us/static/study/pr072402.htm
http://www.nmarts.org/org_resources.html
http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/news/economicdevelopment.html (?)
http://www.window.state.tx.us/comptrol/fnotes/fn0107/fn.html
http://www.capp-wsu.org/
http://www.vafortarts.org/
http://www.flca.net/index2.html
National Links:

http://www.artsusa.org/information_resources/research_information/services/economic_impact/default.asp
http://www.pps.org/info/pub_art/art_impact
http://www.americansforthearts.org/
http://www.bls.gov/
http://www.arts.endow.gov/

International Links:

http://www.cac.ca.gov/?id=203
http://arts-conference.com/

XIV. 11.13.07 Globalization/Cosmopolitanism: Transnational or Global Civil Society

Required: Arjun Appadurai, Modernity at Large, 1-204

Recommended: David Cannadine, Ornamentalism: How the British Saw Their Empire
Sylvère Lotringer and Paul Virilio, The Accident of Art
Arjun Appadurai, Fear of Small Numbers: An Essay on the Geography of Anger
Tyler Cowen, Creative Destruction: How Globalization is Changing the World’s Cultures
Jacques Rancière, Short Voyages to the Land of the People
Frederick Cooper, Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History
Rey Chow, The Age of the World Target
Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities

XV. 11.27.07 Museums: Managers, Moralities, Monies, and Masses

Required: Kyle Message, New Museums and the Making of Culture, 1-202

Recommended: Tony Bennett, The Birth of the Museum
Hugh Genoways, Museum Philosophy
Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Destination Culture
Eilean Hooper-Greenhill, Museums and the Interpretation of Visual Culture
Matthew Bogdanos, Thieves of Baghdad

XVI. 12.4.07 Conclusion: Everyday Life in the Modern World

Required: Henri Lefebvre, Everyday Life in the Modern World, vii-206

Recommended: Daniel Bell, The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism
John Dewey, Art as Experience
John Dewey, The Public and Its Problems
Herbert Gans, Popular Culture and High Culture
Walter Lippmann, Public Opinion
Lewis Mumford, Art and Technics
Lewis Mumford, The Conduct of Life
Richard Rorty, Philosophy and Social Hope
Paul Virilio, Art and Fear
Eric L. Jones, Cultures Merging: A Historical and Economic Critique of Culture
James Clifford, Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century
Joli Jensen, Redeeming Modernity: Contradictions in Media Criticism
http://www.cjc-online.ca/printarticle.php?id=92&layout=html

XVII. 12.13.07 **FINAL PAPER DUE**