History of Art 586 and Comparative Literature 586  
Twentieth Century Theory and Criticism  

Professor Christine Poggi  
Spring 2007  

Tues. 3-5 p.m., Davis Seminar Room, Fisher Fine Arts Library  

Office Hours: Wed. 2:00 - 4:00  

Books available at The Pennsylvania Book Center, 34th and Sansom Streets:  

Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle, eds., Critical Theory Since 1965  
Roland Barthes, Mythologies  
Peter Bürger, Theory of the Avant-Garde  
Fredric Jameson, The Prison-House of Language  

Syllabus  

Jan. 9  Introduction  

Jan. 16  Enlightenment Aesthetics/Formalist Modernism  


Jan. 23  The Dialectic of Autonomy


Peter Bürger, Theory of the Avant-Garde, 35-82.

Jan. 30  Originality/Copying/Repetition


Feb. 6  Mechanical Reproduction

Walter Benjamin, "The Author as Producer," (1934) in Reflections, 220-238; repr. in Brian Wallis, ed., Art After Modernism, 297-309.


Feb. 13  Structuralism


Feb. 20  Mythology/Ideology


Recommended: Abigail Solomon-Godeau, "Going Native," Art in America 77, no. 7 (July 1989), 118-129, 161.

Feb. 27  Deconstruction/The Critique of Presence


Spring Break
Mar. 13  Symbol and Allegory, Metaphor and Metonymy


Recommended: Paul de Man, "Reading (Proust)," in Allegories of Reading, 57-78.

Mar. 20  The Death of the Author


Michael Fried, essay on Thomas Demand, Artforum (March 2005),

Mar. 27  Fetishisms

Karl Marx, excerpt from Capital: A Critique of Political Economy, Book 1, Part 1, Ch. 1, "Commodities," 41-96.


Apr. 3  Simulations

Gilles Deleuze, "The Simulacrum and Ancient Philosophy," in The Logic of Sense, appendix, 253-266.


Apr. 10 Theorizing the Gaze


Apr. 17 Constructing Subjects: Masquerade, Interpellation, Performance


Recommended: Mary Ann Doane, “Film and the Masquerade: Theorising the Female Spectator,” Screen 23, nos. 3-4 (September-October 1982), 74-87.

Course requirements:

The most important activity in this course is active participation in weekly discussion of readings (50%). This includes reading the assigned articles carefully, and coming to class with questions or issues to discuss. Each student will also write four short response papers (20%). The final exam will be an essay on a topic selected from several options. This essay will be no more than eight pages long, and requires no further reading (30%).