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Virginia Tech  
Fall 2007

### **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**

1. Arjun Appadurai, Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization
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
5. Jacques Derrida, Paper Machine
6. John Ehrenberg, Civil Society: The Critical History of an Idea
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
10. Henri Lefebvre, Everyday Life in the Modern World
11. Herbert Marcuse, The Aesthetic Dimension: Toward a Critique of Marxist Aesthetics
12. Kylie Message, New Museums and the Making of Culture
13. Richard A. Peterson, Creating Country Music: Fabricating Authenticity
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.stanford.edu/~davidf/qualitative151/geertz.pdf>

<http://www.iwp.uni->

[linz.ac.at/lxe/sektktf/gg/GeertzTexts/Thick\\_Description.htm](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](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/af/civil.htm>

[http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com\\_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=1428&layout=html](http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=1428&layout=html)

G.W.F., The Philosophy of Right

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/pr/prcivils.htm>

David Hume, “Of the Original Contract”

<http://www.constitution.org/dh/origcont.htm>

Frederick Jameson, “The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism”

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/jameson.htm>

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](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

<http://philosophy.eserver.org/kant/critique-of-judgment.txt>

Immanuel Kant, An Answer to the Question: "What is Enlightenment?"

<http://philosophy.eserver.org/kant/what-is-enlightenment.txt>

Edmund Burke, Sublime and Beautiful

[http://www.publicbookshelf.com/public\\_html/Outline\\_of\\_Great\\_Books\\_Volume\\_I/edmundbur\\_bhi.html](http://www.publicbookshelf.com/public_html/Outline_of_Great_Books_Volume_I/edmundbur_bhi.html)

Friedrich Schiller, On the Sublime

<http://www.studiocleo.com/librarie/schiller/essay.html>

Friedrich Schiller, On the Aesthetic Education of Man

<http://www.studiocleo.com/librarie/schiller/excerpts.html>

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-definitions/arnold-text.html](http://www.wsu.edu/gened/learn-modules/top_culture/culture-definitions/arnold-text.html) (short excerpt)

Leo Lowenthal, Sociology of Literature

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/lowenthal/1948/literature.htm>

Georg Lukács, The Theory of the Novel

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/lukacs/works/theory-novel/index.htm>

Georg Lukács, The Moral Mission of the Communist Party

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/lukacs/works/1920/moral-mission.htm>

Georg Lukács, History & Class Consciousness

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/lukacs/works/history/index.htm>

Leo Tolstoy, What Is Art? <http://www.csulb.edu/~jvancamp/361r14.html>

Leon Trotsky, Literature and Art

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/works/art/index.htm>

Herbert Marcuse, Art as a Form of Reality

<http://www-dev.dxarts.washington.edu/coupe/wk1/marcuse.pdf>

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>

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>  
Friedrich A. Kittler, Fiction and Simulation  
[http://www.aec.at/en/archiv\\_files/19881/E1988\\_048A.pdf](http://www.aec.at/en/archiv_files/19881/E1988_048A.pdf)  
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-bin/resolve?id=doi:10.1086/341236>

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

**Required:** Jacques Derrida, Paper Machine, ix-x, 1-65, 100-108, 136-181  
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>  
Allen J. Scott, A New Map of Hollywood: The Production and Distribution of American Motion Pictures  
<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>

X. 10.19.07 **BOOK CRITIQUE DUE**

XI. 10.23.07 **Country and Culture**

**Required:** Richard A. Peterson, Creating Country Music, ix-233

**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 Kossler, 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](http://www.sactaqc.org/Resources/Literature/Economic_Vitality/QofPlace.pdf)

Sam Youl Lee, Richard Florida and Zoltan Acs, 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-](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0038-4038(200010)67%3A2%3C232%3AAET0AA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-X)

[4038\(200010\)67%3A2%3C232%3AAET0AA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-X](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0038-4038(200010)67%3A2%3C232%3AAET0AA%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.ccsindia.org/ccsindia/lacs/4the\\_arts\\_in\\_a\\_market\\_economy.pdf](http://www.ccsindia.org/ccsindia/lacs/4the_arts_in_a_market_economy.pdf)

Tyler Cowen, Symbolic Goods: The Liberal State in Pursuit of Art and Beauty

[http://www.ccsindia.org/ccsindia/lacs/15symbolic\\_goods\\_liberal\\_state.pdf](http://www.ccsindia.org/ccsindia/lacs/15symbolic_goods_liberal_state.pdf)

**Recommended:**

State Links:

<http://arts.state.wi.us/static/study/pr072402.htm>

[http://www.nmarts.org/org\\_resources.html](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.vaforarts.org/>

<http://www.flca.net/index2.html>

National Links:

[http://www.artsusa.org/information\\_resources/research\\_information/services/economic\\_impact/default.asp](http://www.artsusa.org/information_resources/research_information/services/economic_impact/default.asp)  
[http://www.pps.org/info/pub\\_art/art\\_impact](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://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2003/01/15950/15148/Q/Zoom/80>  
<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**