

PHIL 1048: Foundations II - Untimely Meditations

Lecture/Seminars: Professor Golding
Office hrs: Mondays 2-4; Friday Studio visits (by appt only)
Tel: 020.8331.8948 (direct)
M: 0784.1099.503
E: s.golding@gre.ac.uk or Director@MediaArtsResearch.com

This course investigates the radical move, initiated by Nietzsche and Heidegger, and later (and by different paths) Einstein, Cage, Deleuze & Guattari, Foucault, and Lyotard, away from dialectical reasoning, toward the more multi-dimensioned, sensuous complexities of curve-speed/time relativities, rhizomatic moves and emotion/al logics in contemporary art practises and new media environs.

In so doing, it a different kind of representation – one that maybe or is closer to a surface circuitry structure; that is, a kind of ‘event’ based on a non-linear temporality /speed/ space poetics (one could say here, also, a kind of sensuous philology or mathematics). As with the preceding unit (*Foundations I: Contemporary Political Philosophy & Aesthetics*), this *Untimely Meditations (Foundations II)* takes as a given not only that contemporary political philosophies are at the forefront of scholarship in new media arts, but that its practise requires a delicate interlacing of rhizomatic method with the various practising arts (moving image, sound, the digital and analogue arts, photography, gaming, etc).

Content

The course examines the work of leading exponents of postmodern and ‘post-’ postmodern discourses around art, communication technologies and media cultures, focussing in any given year on one or more of the seminal texts from the work of Nietzsche, Heidegger, Bergson, Deleuze, Einstein, Gödel, Haraway, Lyotard. As background or supplement: Agamben, Badiou, Blanchot, Da Vinci, Foucault, Golding, Nancy, Lacoue-Labarthe, Turing, Wittgenstein and Joyce. Artists/scholars/players include, but are not limited to, the works of John Cage, Marcel Duchamp, Cindy Sherman, ~e (Electronicmagnetic News), Ellen Gallagher, General Idea, Jean-Michel Basquiat, BANK, William Ewing, Eric Satie, John McCarthy, Matthew Barney, de Sade, FOAM, Briget Riley, Annette Messenger, JODI, InTransit, Jean Genet and Leonardo da Vinci. Care is taken to tease out the meanings of concepts such as ‘singular multiplicity’, mutation, nodal point, the event(s), mimesis, memory & forgetting in order both to use and abuse them as analytic tools in our on-going exploration of the logic of the senses embedded in the materialities, language games and aesthetics of this age we so euphemistically call the ‘information age’ or ‘age’ of technology.’

Assessment

- 35% **Book Review** of one of the books listed below. This is meant to be an analytic assessment of the argument within the chosen work. The written work is **1500 words**.
- 65% **Research Essay** Topics/questions will be handed out. You may answer one of the topics/questions by writing a 3,500 word paper or working on a research project + text (5-10min/equiv. + 2,000 word essay).
-

Key texts

*** = required; ** = important; * = of interest; ph = photocopy of selected works will be made available.

Required:

Bachelard, G.	***ph	Dialectics of Duration; **Poetics of Space
Badiou, A.	***	Being and Event (2005)
Bergson, H.	***ph	Duration & Simultaneity
Deleuze, G.	**ph	The Logic of Sense
	**ph	Difference and Repetition
Deleuze + Guattari	***ph	A Thousand Plateaus
Derrida, J.	***ph	Given Time: (I) Counterfeit Money;
Einstein, A.	***ph	[Selections from Special and General Relativity Theory]
Gödel, K.	***ph	On Formally Undecidable Propositions
Golding, J/S	***ph	Assassination of Time (or the birth of zeta-physics)
	***	Games of Truth (a poetic in 7 part harmony)
Heidegger, M.	***ph	Identity & Difference
Lyotard, J-F	***	Libidinal Economy
Nietzsche, F.	***ph	Untimely Meditations (selections)

Important:

Agamben, G.	**	Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life (1998)
Anon	**ph	The Cloud of Unknowing (14 th cent)
Ansell-Pearson, K.	**	Germinal Life: Difference and Repetition of Deleuze;
	**	Philosophy and Adventures of the Virtual
Bergson, H.	**	Matter and Memory
Blanchot, M.	**	Infinite Conversations;
	**	The Community of Those Who Have nothing in common;
	**ph	Siren's Song
	**	Faux Pas,
	**	The Work of Fire
Da Vinci, L.	**ph	The Complete Works (PH on 'painting a surface')
De Certeau	**	Heterologies
Deleuze, G.	**	Difference and Repetition;

	**	Francis Bacon: The Logic of Sensation;
	**	The Fold
Deleuze + Guattari	**	Anti-Oedipus
Derrida, J.	**	Memories of the Blind;
	**	Glas
Duchamp, M.	**ph	The Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp (ed. Schwarz)
Foucault, M.	**ph	The Essential Works , vols I, II, III.
Golding, J/S.	**ph	<i>N+1: A Deleuzian Something (Inflamed Poetics);</i>
	**ph	<i>the Colour of Time (God is a Lobster); Honour</i>
Guattari, F.	**	Chaosmosis
Haraway, D.	**ph	Cyborgs & Simians
Heidegger, M.	**	What is Called Thinking?
	**	Metaphysics
Lytard, J-F	**	Being Singular Plural;
	**	Heidegger & the Jews;
	**ph	The Assassination of Experience by Painting
Massumi, B.	**	Parables of the Virtual
Nietzsche, F.	**	The Genealogy of Morals;
	**	Human all too Human
Stroll, A.	**	Surfaces
Turing, A.	**	Can Machines Think?
Wittgenstein, L.	**	On Certainty
	**	Remarks on Mathematics
	**	Philosophical Grammar
Background – of Interest		
Agamben, G.	*	The Man Without Content (1994)
Auerbach, E	*	Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature
Hofstader, D.	*	Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid
Homer	*ph	Odyesseus
Joyce, J.	*	Ulysses
Lippard, Lucy	*	Six Years: the de-materialisation of the art object from 1966 to 1972: a cross reference book on some esthetic boundaries: consisting of a bibliography into which are inserted a fragmented text, artworks, interviews and symposia, arranged chronologically and focussed on

so-called conceptual or information or idea art with mentions of such vaguely designated areas as minimal, anti-form, systems, earth, or process art occurring now in the Americas, Europe, England, Africa and Asia (with occasional political overtones);

Murakami, H.	*	Hardboiled Wonderland and the End of the World
Nietzsche, F.	*	Daybreak;
	*	The Genealogy of Morals
	*	Unfashionable Observations
Pritchard, D.	*	The Right Way to Play Chess
Seuss, Dr.	*	Horton Hatches a Who (Horton Hatches the Egg);
	*	The Hat and the Cat comes Back;
	*	Green Eggs and Ham

Schedule of Seminars: Please note: Unless otherwise stated, all readings are in the Readers for this semester.

Week 1	<p>‘From Negative Dialectics to Rhizomatic Intensities: Introduction to Untimely Meditations’: Techne; Genealogy; Discourse; Event. Screening: “Sound” (with J. Cage and Roland Kirk). <u>Readings:</u> None; Hand out Heidegger’s “<i>Question Concerning Technology and Identity and Difference</i>.”</p>
Week 2	<p>Entering into the Fray: Heidegger, Nietzsche and a Little Question about b/Being (I)</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heidegger, M. “<i>Question Concerning Technology</i>” (ph) 2. (optional) Heidegger, M. “<i>Identity</i>” (1st lecture of the Identity and Difference Lectures) ph. 3. (optional) Nietzsche, F. Human all too Human (first part)
Week 3	<p>Entering into the Fray: Heidegger, Nietzsche and a Little Question about b/Being (II)</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heidegger, M. “Identity.” 2. Badiou, A. “Part III. Being: Nature and Infinity: Heidegger/Galileo”, pp.123-172, in his Being and Event.
Week 4	<p>Relationship: Making clear(ish) the difference between ‘/’ and ‘:’ in Heidegger’s <i>Identity and Difference</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. re-read: Heidegger, M. Identity and Difference – just the ‘<i>identity</i>’ lecture again; 2. re-read: Badiou, A. “Part III. Being: Nature and Infinity: Heidegger/Galileo”, pp.123-172, in his Being and Event. 3. Derrida, J. “Introduction: de-deNegation” in Lacoue-Labarthe’s Typologies (in library)

- Week 5** **What is called 'difference'? [Guest Speaker TBA]: Event of Appropriation.**
Readings:
 1. Heidegger, M. **Identity and Difference** – just the 'difference' lecture.
 2. Deleuze, G. "On the Rhizome", **A Thousand Plateaus** (first chapter).
 3. Stroll, A. 'What is a Surface?', in his **Surfaces** (ph)
 4. (optional): Deleuze, **Difference and Repetition** (1st part).
- Week 6** **Event of Appropriation (is it the same as or different from What is called Intensity?)**
Readings:
 1. Deleuze and Guattari, "The Rhizome", and "Planes of Immanence" in their **Thousand Plateaux**
 2. Massumi, B. "Realer than Real: The Simulacrum according to D&G", at http://www.anu.edu.au/HRC/first_and_last/works/realer.htm
 3. (optional) Deleuze, **The Clamour of Being**
- Week 7** **Re-thinking Time (as simultaneous)**
Readings:
 1. Bergson, H. **Simultaneity and Duration**, (intro and chap 1);
 2. Bergson, H. **Matter and Memory** (first chapter);
 3. Golding, J. **The Assassination of Time** (ph)
- Week 8** **What is called Intensity? Re-thinking Time (as duration)**
 *****Book Review due in Registry*****
Readings:
 1. Bergson, H. **Simultaneity and Duration**, chps 2-7, (read as much as you can without becoming distressed at the mathematics);
 2. (optional) Einstein, A. *Reply to Monsieur Bergson* in **Simultaneity and Duration**; (optional) Wittgenstein, L. **On Certainty** (pp. 1-19e)
- Week 9** **The importance of 'ordinary' (as in speed, time, dimension, techne)**
Readings
 1. Gödel, K. "On Formally Undecidable Propositions" (phc)
 2. Golding, J. *Inflamed Poetics: imagination in the age of reason*, phc
- ***spring break*****
- Week 10** **Can an 'event of appropriation' be sensuous and at the same time be 'an economy'? Re-thinking the economy (or Lyotard after Deleuze);**
Readings:
 1. Lyotard, J-F. **Libidinal Economy (part I)** phc
 2. Lyotard, J-F. "Glossary," in **Libidinal Economy** (phc)
 3. (optional) Lyotard, j-f. *The Assassination of Experience by Painting* (phc)
- Week 11** **Can 'logic' be sensuous (or how to become a techno-nerd and learn to love it)**
Readings:
 1. Deleuze, G. **The Logic of Sense** (1-6 series; 17-19 series; 26-29 series);
 2. (optional) Deleuze, G. **Chaosmosis**;
- Week 12 –** **Can 'logic' be sensuous + ethical + political (or how to become a techno-nerd and learn to ... change the world?)**
Readings (repeat):
 1. Deleuze, G. **The Logic of Sense** (1-6 series; 17-19 series; 26-29 series);
-

2. (optional) Gautari, **Chaosmosis** (phc)

Week 13

WRAP. Work Due in Reception, School of Humanities (King William Court)