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the  
UNIVERSITY  
of  
GREENWICH

Core Course

**PHIL 1048: Foundations II - Untimely Meditations**  
**Professor J Golding**      Feb 2008 - May 2008

**Lecture/Seminars:**      **Monday Evenings: 6-8.30pm QM168**  
**Office hrs:**              **Mondays 2-4; Friday Studio visits (by appt only)**  
**Tel:**                        **020.8331.8948 (direct)      Office: KW238**  
**M:**                         **0784.1099.503**  
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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 -- emerges; 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) in order to look at: identity, memory, truth/truth-games; art.

### 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, Foucault, Deleuze, Einstein, Gödel, Haraway, Lyotard. As background or supplement: Agamben, Badiou, Blanchot, Da Vinci, Golding, Joyce, Nancy, Lacoue-Labarthe, Turing, Wittgenstein. 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**. **Due Mar 31, 2008\*** (If office is still closed due to Spring break, it will be handed in on the next available Monday date).

65%      **Research Essay** Topics/questions will be handed out **Feb 25<sup>th</sup>**. 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). Please indicate your choice by March 12. **Due May 30, 2008.**

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## KEY TEXTS

### Required

Bergson, H.  
Deleuze, G.  
Deleuze + Guattari  
Derrida, Jacques  
Einstein, Albert  
Gödel, K.  
Golding, S.  
  
Foucault, M.  
  
Haraway, D.  
Irigaray, L.  
Heidegger, M.  
  
Lyotard, J-F  
Nietzsche, F.  
Stroll, A.  
Turing, A.

### Duration and Simultaneity

**The Logic of Senses; The Logic of Sensation; Difference and Repetition; A Thousand Plateaus**

**Given Time: (1) Counterfeit Money; Plato's Pharmacy**

**Special and General Relativity Theory [selections]**

**On Formally Undecidable Propositions**

**Games of Truth (a poetic in 7 part harmony); Assassination of Time (or the Birth of Zeta-Physics**

*What is Enlightenment?* In **The Essential Works; Abnormal; The Order of Things; Truth & Power** (selections from all texts listed)

**When Species Meet**

**The Forgetting of Air in Martin Heidegger**

**What is Called 'Thinking'?**; **Identity & Difference; Question Concerning Technology**

**Libidinal Economy; Analytic of the Sublime** (selections)

**Untimely Meditations** (selections); **Genealogy of Morals; the Gay Science Surfaces**

*Can Machines Think?*

### Important

Agamben, G.  
Anon  
Ansell-Pearson, K.  
  
Auerbach, E  
Badiou, A.  
Bachelard, G.  
Bergson, H.  
Blanchot, M.  
  
Burroughs, W.  
Da Vinci, L.  
De Certeau  
Deleuze, G.  
Deleuze + Guattari  
Derrida, J.  
Duchamp, M.  
Golding, J/S.  
Guattari, F.  
Haraway, D.  
Heidegger, M.  
Lyotard, J-F  
  
Massumi, B.  
Negri  
Nietzsche, F.  
Wittgenstein, L.

**Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life** (1998)

**The Cloud of Unknowing** (14<sup>th</sup> cent)

**Germinal Life: Difference and Repetition of Deleuze; Philosophy and Adventures of the Virtual**

**Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature**

**Being and Event** (2005)

**Dialectics of Duration; Poetics of Space**

**Matter and Memory**

**Infinite Conversations; The Community of Those who have Nothing in Common**

**The Cat Inside; Nausea**

*Painting a Surface in The Complete Works*

**Heterologies**

**The Fold**

*Body without Organs* in **Anti-Oedipus**

**Memories of the Blind; Glas**

**The Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp** (ed. Schwarz) selections  
**the eight technologies of otherness (selections);**

**Chaosmosis**

**Cyborgs & Simians**

**Metaphysics**

**Being Singular Plural; Heidegger & the Jews; The Assassination of Experience by Painting**

**Parables of the Virtual**

**Empire**

**Human all too Human**

**On Certainty, Remarks on Mathematics; Philosophical Grammar**

### Of Interest

Agamben, G.

**The Man Without Content** (1994)

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Hofstadter, D.  
Homer  
Joyce, J.  
Lippard, Lucy

**Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid**

*Kind Nestor Remembers* in **Odyseus**

**Ulysses**

**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.  
Nietzsche, F.  
Pritchard, D.  
Seuss, Dr.

**Hardboiled Wonderland and the End of the World**

**Daybreak; The Genealogy of Moral; Unfashionable Observations**

**The Right Way to Play Chess**

**The Cat and the Hat; The Cat and the Hat comes Back; Green Eggs and Ham**

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

**Week 1 –Jan 29**

**'From Negative Dialectics to Rhizomatic Intensities: Introduction to Untimely Meditations': Techne; Genealogy; Discourse; Event.**

Screening: "Sound" (with J. Cage and Roland Kirk).

Readings:

None; Hand out Heidegger's "*Question Concerning Technology and Identity and Difference*."

**Week 2 –Feb 05**

**Entering into the Fray: Heidegger, Nietzsche and a Little Question about b/Being (I)**

Readings:

1. Heidegger, M. "*Question Concerning Technology*" (ph)
2. (optional) Heidegger, M. "*Identity*" (1<sup>st</sup> lecture of the *Identity and Difference Lectures*) ph.
3. (optional) Nietzsche, F. **Human all too Human** (first part)

**Week 3 –Feb 12**

**Entering into the Fray: Heidegger, Nietzsche and a Little Question about b/Being (II)**

Readings:

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 –Feb 19**

**Relationship: Making clear(ish) the difference between '/' and ':' in Heidegger's *Identity and Difference***

Readings:

1. re-read: Heidegger, M. **Identity and Difference** – just the '*identity*' 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)
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**Week 5 – Feb 26**      **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 Plateaux** (first chapter).
3. Stroll, A. ‘What is a Surface?’, in his **Surfaces** (ph)
4. (optional): Deleuze, **Difference and Repetition** (1<sup>st</sup> part).

**Week 6 – Mar 05**      **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](http://www.anu.edu.au/HRC/first_and_last/works/realer.htm)
3. (optional) Deleuze, *The Clamour of Being*

**Week 7 – Mar 12**      **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 – Mar 19**      **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 –Mar 26**      **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 –Apr 16**      **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—Apr 23**      **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) Gautari, **Chaosmosis**;

**Week 12 – Apr 30**      **Can ‘logic’ be sensuous + ethical + political (or how to become a techno-nerd and learn to ... change the world?)**

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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 –May 7**

**WRAP. Work Due in Reception, School of Humanities (King William Court)**  
**\*\*\*2 JUNE 2007\*\*\***