MSt Core Course: Key Questions in Critical Thought

There will be two seminar groups, run by Prof Hiddleston and Dr Murnane, and Dr Kemp and Dr McLaughlin. Seminars take place weeks 1-5 in Hilary Term. In week 6, there will be individual 15-minute meetings with tutors to discuss plans for the essay. Before the meeting, you should prepare a 250-word statement outlining your essay topic. Essays should be 5000-7000 words and should be submitted by Thursday of Week 10, Hilary Term.

1. Literature, Politics, and Education

Core Reading:

Jacques Derrida, 'This Strange Institution Called Literature', in Derek Attridge (ed), *Acts of Literature* (London: Routledge, 1992)

Christopher Fynsk, 'Part II', in *The Claim of Language: A Case for the Humanities* (Minneapolis: Univeristy of Minnesota Press, 2004).

Jacques Rancière, 'The Politics of Literature', in *The Politics of Literature* (Cambridge: Polity, 2011)

Further Reading:

Jean-Paul Sartre, *What is Literature?* (London: Routledge, 2001)

Nicholas Harrison (ed.), *The Idea of the Literary*, *Paragraph* 28.2 (2005)

Catherine Belsey, *The Future of Criticism* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2011)

Jacques Rancière, 'An Intellectual Adventure', in *The Ignorant Schoolmaster* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1991).

Marc Augé, *The Future* (in particular chapts. 7-8), (London: Verso, 2014).

Alfred North Whitehead, 'Universities and their Function', in *The Aims of Education and other essays* (New York: Macmillan, 1957).

2. Gender and Sexuality

Core Reading:

Judith Butler, 'Beside Oneself: On the Limits of Sexual Autonomy' in *Undoing Gender,* (London: Routledge, 2004)

Lee Edelman, *No Future*, please read 'The Future is Kid Stuff' (Durham: Duke University Press, 2004)

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, 'Queer and Now' in *Tendencies*, (Durham: Duke University Press, 1993)

Further Reading:

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (London: Routledge, 2006)

Leo Bersani, *Homos*, in particular chapt. 4 'The Gay Outlaw' (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1995).

Shoshana Felman, *What does a woman want? Reading and Sexual Difference* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993)

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality,* esp. Vol 1, 'We "Other Victorians"' (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1978)

Elizabeth Grosz, *Volatile Bodies: Towards a Corporeal Feminism* (John Wiley and Sons, 1994)

Toril Moi, *Sexual/Textual Politics*, read: Introduction, chapters 5 and 6 (2nd edn, New York: Routledge, 2002).

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, *Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003), especially 'Under Western Eyes' and 'Under Western Eyes Revisited'

bell hooks, *Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics* (London: Routledge, 2015)

3. Postcolonialism and Globalisation

Core Reading:

Edward Said, *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient*, esp. 'Introduction' (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1978)

Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong'o, *Globalectics: Theory and the Politics of Knowing*, esp. Chapter Three 'Globalectical Imagination: The World in the Postcolonial' (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012)

Robert Young, 'Postcolonial Remains', *New Literary History* 43 (2012): 19-42

Further Reading:

Simon Gikandi *et al*, 'The End of Postcolonial Theory?' *PMLA* (May 2007) 633-651

Michael Hardt, Antonio Negri, *Empire* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard UP, 2000)

Jane Hiddleston, *Understanding Postcolonialism* (Stocksfield: Acumen, 2009)

Fredric Jameson, Masao Miyoshi, *The Cultures of Globalization* (Durham, NC: Duke UP, 1998)

Amitava Kumar (ed.), *World Bank Literature* (Minneapolis, Minn.: U of Minnesota Press, 1996)

Robert Young, *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2001)

4. Ecology and New Materialism

Core Reading:

Félix Guattari, *The Three Ecologies* (London: Continuum, 2008)

Jane Bennett, 'The Force of Things', in *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2010).

Timothy Morton, 'Thinking Big', in *The Ecological Thought* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010).

Further Reading:

Timothy Clark, 'Post-humanism and the 'end of nature'' in *The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and the Environment* (Cambridge University Press, 2011)

Rick Dolphijn and Iris van der Tuin, *New Materialism: Interviews & Cartographies* (Ann Arbor: MPublishing, Open Humanities Press, 2012).

Richard Grusin, 'Introduction' (in particular pp. vii-xxi), in *The Nonhuman Turn* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015).

Bruno Latour, 'Redistribution', in *We have never been modern* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1993).

Eugene B. Young, *The Deleuze and Guattari Dictionary* (London: Boomsbury, 2013).

5. Posthumanism

Core Reading:

Donna Harraway, 'A Cyborg Manifesto', in *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women* (London: Routledge, 1990)

Steven Shaviro, '1: Introduction' '2: Corporate Cannibal', in *Post-Cinematic Affect* (Winchester: Zero Books, 2010).

Rosi Braidotti, 'Posthuman Humanities: Life Beyond Theory', in *The Posthuman* (Cambridge: Polity, 2013).

Further Reading:

Jonathan Flatley, 'Glossary: Affect, Emotion, Mood (Stimmung), Structure of Feeling', in *Affective Mapping: Melancholia and the Politics of Modernism* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008).

Melissa Gregg & Gregory J. Seigworth (eds.), *The Affect Theory Reader* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2010).

Robin Hanson, *The Age of Em: Work, Love and Life when Robots rule the Earth* (Oxford: OUP, 2016)

N. Katherine Hayles, *How We Became Posthuman* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press)

Martin Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology* (New York: Harper and Row, 1977)

Stefan Herbrechter, *Posthumanism. A Critical Analysis* (London: Bloomsbury, 2013)

Ruth Leys, 'The Turn to Affect: A Critique', *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 37, no. 3 (Spring 2011), pp. 434-72

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: 'The labour-process and the process of producing surplus value' (from *Capital* chapt 7), in Scharff & Dusek (eds): Philosophy of Technology. The Technological Condition. (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014).