

MSt Core Course: Key Questions in Critical Thought

There will be two seminar groups, run by Prof Hiddleston and Dr Murnane, and Dr Counter and Dr McLaughlin. Seminars take place weeks 4, 6, and 8 in Michaelmas Term, and weeks 2 and 4 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 words and should be submitted by Thursday of Week 10, Hilary Term.

1. Education in the Humanities

Core Reading:

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

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

Further Reading:

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

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

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

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

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

2. Gender and Sexuality

Core Reading:

Leo Bersani, 'Is the rectum a grave?' in *Is the rectum a grave?* (University of Chicago Press, 2009)

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

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

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)

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

3. Postcolonialism and Globalisation

Core Reading:

Dipesh Chakrabarty, 'Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History: Who speaks for "Indian" Pasts?', *Representations* 37 (1992): 1-26.

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

Walter D. Mignolo, 'Introduction', and 'What does it mean to decolonize?' in Walter D. Mignolo and Catherine Walsh, *On Decoloniality: Concepts, Analytics, Praxis* (Duke University Press, 2018), 1-12 and 105-134.

Further Reading:

Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference* (Princeton University Press, 2000)

Homi Bhabha, *The Location of Culture* (Routledge, 1994)

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)

Walter D. Mignolo, *The Darker Side of Western Modernity: Global Futures, Decolonial Options* (Duke University Press, 2011)

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

4. Ecology and New Materialism

Core Reading:

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

Timothy Morton, 'Introduction: Critical Thinking' and '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).

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

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 Haraway, '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).

Further Reading:

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

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).