



AHST 6310-091
Marxist and Phenomenological
Bodies in Contemporary Art
Dr. Charissa N. Terranova
Second-Session Summer 2024
July 2 – August 7
M-W 1-4:45 pm

Description:

This course focuses on the criticism and philosophy of contemporary art. Its goal is to apprise students of the seminal texts surrounding contemporary art.

Requirements:

Students will be required to complete reading assignments prior to class and make three presentations of 30-45 minutes (PowerPoint presentation and classroom discussion) on an artist or group of artists related to the reading assignment. The final assignment consists of a polished and edited compendium of your short essays submitted over the month. **Please arrive prepared to discuss the assigned reading on Wednesday July 3.**

Course Modality:

The first meeting of class on July 3 will be held **online via Teams**. The remaining meetings will be **in person on campus**.

Goals:

- Knowledge of seminal writings in contemporary art philosophy and criticism
- Improvement of critical reading skills
- Improvement of writing skills
- Improvement of broad skills of critical interpretation

Readings:

The readings are available through the library reserves portal at elearning.

Class Organization:

Class meetings consist of two primary components: two hours of discussion about the assigned texts based on close and careful readings *and* two hours of presentations by students.

Assignments:

1.) **PRESENTATIONS:** Students are required to make **three** 30- to 45-minute PowerPoint presentations during the summer. Each presentation should focus on the reading and at least one artist. Presenters should inspire group dialogue by directly asking fellow classmates questions about the reading, making image-rich presentations, and explaining the relationship these images have with the reading and/or contemporary issues, be they in the art world, natural and biological environments, and/or politics. **Percentage of grade: 33%.**

2.) **PAPER WRITING:** Students will submit **one** 1200-word essay based on their presentation upon the day of their presentation, making for a total of **three** 1200-word essays. **The essays should be descriptive and**

interpretative, connecting at least one artist to the assigned reading. These are research exercises.

The professor will return the essay with editorial comments concerning syntax, formatting, and contents.

Essays should have the following format:

- left-hand justified heading with student's name, course name, professor's name, date
- title of essay center justified and underlined or italicized
- double spacing
- 12-pt. font
- endnotes
- bibliography
- pagination
- Percentage of grade: 34%

3.) **EDITING EXERCISE AND FINAL ESSAYS:** Students will submit the three 1200-word essays having addressed the professor's editorial comments concerning syntax, formatting, and contents by **5:00 pm on Wednesday August 7** to terranova@utdallas.edu. The final three essays should have the following format:

- cover page with center justified heading with student's name, course name, professor's name, date
- title of each essay center justified and underlined or italicized
- double spacing
- 12-pt. font
- endnotes
- comprehensive bibliography
- pagination
- Percentage of grade: 33%

Reading Schedule

Wednesday July 3 The Spectacle of Capitalism [Class meets via Teams.]

Introduction and Presentation sign-up.

Reading:

- Karl Marx. *Das Kapital: A Critique of Political Economy, Vol. 1*. Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1995 [1867]. Part 1. Available at the Marxist Internet Archive.
- Guy Debord. *Society of the Spectacle*. Trans. Donald Nicholson-Smith. New York: Zone Books, 1994 [1967]. 11-151. Available at Monoskop.

Monday July 8 No Class

There will be no class because the enrolled students are traveling.

Wednesday July 10 Body [Class from this point onwards meets in ATC 2.750E.]

Reading:

- Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. "The Body as Expression and Speech." In *Phenomenology of Perception*. London: Routledge, 2007. 174-202.
- Dalia Judovitz. "The Culture of the Body: Genealogies of Modernity." In *The Culture of the Body: Genealogies of Modernity*. Ed. Dalia Judovitz. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. 3-43.

Monday July 15 Self

Reading:

- John Perreault. "Ana Mendieta: The Politics of Spirituality." In *Covered in Time and History: The Films of Ana Mendieta*. Ed. Howard Oransky, Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2015. 24-51.
- G. Giannachi. *Technologies of the Self-Portrait: Identity, Presence and the Construction of the Subject(s) in Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Art*. New York: Routledge Press, 2022. 1-12; 93-113.

Wednesday July 17 Objects

Reading:

- Steven Shaviro. *The Universe of Things: On Speculative Realism* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2014). Introduction and Ch. 3.
- Katherine Behar, Ed. *Object-Oriented Feminism* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2016). Introduction and Ch. 1.

Monday July 22 The Posthuman

Reading:

- Rossi Braidotti. *Posthuman Feminism*. London: Wiley, 2022. Chs. 3, 5.
- Patricia MacCormack. "Art: Inhuman Ecstasy." In *Posthuman Ethics: Embodiment and Cultural Theory*. London: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2017. 43-56.

Wednesday July 24 Technological Prosthetics

Reading:

- Andrea Pinotti. "The Avatarisation of the (Self-)Portrait: Notes Towards a Theological Genealogy of the Virtual Self." In *Reconfiguring the Portrait*. Eds. Abraham Geil and Tomáš Jirsa. Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press, 2023. 190-204.
- Charissa N. Terranova. *Automotive Prosthetic: Technological Mediation and the Car in Conceptual Art*. Austin, TX: University of TX Press, 2014. 1-25.

Monday July 29 Individuation and Technology

Reading:

- Joanna Zylinska. *The Perception Machine: Our Photographic Future between the Eye and AI*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2023. 1-19; 49-66.
- Saverio Macri. "Individuation, Art, and Interactivity Starting with Gilbert Simondon." *Aisthesis. Pratiche, Linguaggi E Saperi dell'estetico*, 15(1), 161-171.

Wednesday July 31 Pre-Individuation

Reading:

- Gilbert Simondon. "The Genesis of the Individual." In *Incorporations*. Eds. Jonathan Crary and Sanford Kwinter. New York: Zone Books, 1992. 297-319.
- Charissa N. Terranova. "Preindividuation, Individuation, and Bacteria: Revisiting Gilbert Simondon's Philosophy through the Hologenome." *Public* 59, Special issue on Interspecies Communication. Eds. Meredith Tromble and Patricia Olynyk (Summer 2019) 138-148.

Monday August 5 Agency

Reading:

- Humberto Maturana and Francisco Varela. *Autopoiesis and Cognition: The Realization of the Living*. Dordrecht, Holland: D. Reidel Publishing, 1972. 73-123.
- Charissa N. Terranova. "Bacterial Politics: Autonomy, Autopoiesis, Bioart," *Antennae*. No. 59 (November 2022) 24-38.

Wednesday August 7 Performing Life

Reading:

- Richard O. Prum. *Performance All the Way Down: Genes, Development, and Sexual Difference*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2023. 1-62.
- Rossi Braidotti. *Posthuman Feminism*. London: Wiley, 2022. Ch. 6.