Sample Reading Lists for Modernity and Its Legacies

Modernity and Its Discontents

- Kierkegaard, *The Kierkegaard Reader*
- Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil, The Twilight of Idols and Ecce Homo*
- Lu, Xun, *Diary of a Madman and Other Stories*
- Kafka, *Collected Stories*

- Goethe, *Faust*
- Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*
- Dostoyevsky, *Notes from the Underground*
- Thoreau, *Walden*
- Nietzsche, *Will to Power*

- Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*
- Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*
- Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*
- Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
- Freud, *Civilizations and its Discontents*

Contemporary Issues

One semester, this Honors seminar formed itself as a research colloquium, publishing this online collection of their research into contemporary issues that concerned them most.

In a different semester, this seminar examined *Identity in an Age of Globalization,* analyzing art and reading thinkers like:
- Judith Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution” in *The Feminism and Visual Culture Reader*
- Homi Bhabha, “Postmodernism/Post-Colonialism,” in *Critical Terms for Art History*
- Audre Lorde, “The Master’s Tools will Never Dismantle the Master’s House” in *Feminism & ‘Race’*
- Howard Winant, “The Theoretical Status of the Concept of Race,” in *Only Skin Deep*
- Bowles et al, “Blinded by the White: Art and History at the Limits of Whiteness,” *Art Journal*
- Linda Alcoff, “The Problem of Speaking for Others,” in *Who Can Speak?*

In another semester, students studied *Cyber Culture since 1945,* reading thinkers like:
- Jorge Luis Borges, “The Library of Babel”
- Allan Janik and Stephen Toulmin, *Witgenstein’s Vienna*
- M. Kantor and Loren Graham, *Naming the Infinite*
- Fred Turner, *From Counterculture to Cyberculture*
- C. Wright Mills, *The Power Elite*
- Norbert Wiener, *The Human Use of Human Beings*
- Theodore Roszak, *The Cult of Information*
- Barlow, “A Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace.”
- Winner, Langdon. “Mythinformation,” from *The Whale and the Reactor: A Search for Limits in an Age of High Technology*
Yet another semester, students investigated the **social construction of new media**, through readings like:

- Adorno and Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*
- Benjamin, *The work of art in the age of its technological reproducibility and other essays*
- Habermas, *Transformation of the Public Sphere*
- Hayek, *Road to Serfdom*
- Barthes, *Mythologies*
- Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*
- Debord, *Society of Spectacle*
- Baudrillard, *Simulacra and Simulation*
- Turner, *From Counterculture to Cyberculture*