



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*
Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* and *Power: The Essential Works of Foucault*.

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, *Wittgenstein’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*