Motivation of the Course

Many literary critics and art historians depend on stylized accounts of modernity, post-modernity, and antiquity. We will ask what purpose such accounts serve, what historical conditions have given rise to them, and what dangers they may pose to critics today. The primary purpose of this course is to equip graduate students to read critical arguments that turn on historical claims with greater sophistication and, just as important, to reflect on their own historical assumptions and methods. A secondary purpose is to prepare students to write arguments that will speak not just to colleagues in their narrow historical period but to colleagues who work on periods remote from theirs. One of the keys to succeeding as a critic is learning how to talk across period divisions. In their final essays, students should feel free to write about any work of literature, art object, or historical event, provided they in some way employ or resist a historicist interpretation. Essays on any of the theorists on the syllabus are also welcome.

Meeting Schedule

Wed Jan 7  The Quarrel of the Ancients and Moderns
   Vasari, preface to Lives of the Artists

Wed Jan 14  Winckelmann, Selections from On the Imitation of the Painting and Sculpture of the Greeks (1755); Essay on the Beautiful in Art (1764); History of Ancient Art (1764).
   Alexander Potts, Flesh and Ideal, ch. 1-2.
   John Zammito, "Herder and Historical Metanarrative: What's Philosophical about
History?" In A Companion to the Works of Johann Gottfried Herder.

**Wed Jan 21**  
Friedrich Schiller, *On Naive and Sentimental Poetry* (1795-6); selections from *Letters on the Aesthetic Education of Man* (1795).  
A. W. Schlegel, *Lectures on Dramatic Art and Literature* (1808), lecture 1  
Recommended: Lesley Sharpe, **Friedrich Schiller**, chs. 7-8

**Wed Jan 28**  

**Wed Feb 4**  
Burkhardt, *The Greeks and Greek Civilization*, ch. 4  
Nietzsche, *Birth of Tragedy; History in the Service and Disservice of Life*.  
Michel Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History." In *Truth and Power*.  

**Wed Feb 11**  
William Kerrigan and Gordon Braden, *The Idea of the Renaissance*, chs. 1-2, 4-8  
Steven Greenblatt, *Swerve*.

**Wed Feb 18**  
Michel Foucault, *The Order of Things: An Archeology of Human Sciences*.

**Wed Feb 25**  

**Wed Mar 4**  
Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*  

**Wed Mar 11**  
Frederic Jameson, *Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* (1991), chs., 1, 6, 7, 8.

**Friday Mar 20**  
Final paper due

**Requirements:**  
1. Regular attendance at and participation in class meetings that shows you have carefully
prepared the readings
2. One to two in-class presentations (depending on enrollments).
3. A final paper approximately 17-25 pp. in length. Stanford's Quarter system is rushed, but ideally this should be an essay that could be publishable with further revision and expansion.

Grades:
30% in class participation and performance
20% presentation/s
50% final essay

Unless I am providing you with a copy of the book or have ordered the book from the bookstore (see below), all readings are provided on Courseworks:

Books provided:
I will give you a used copy of:
William Kerrigan and Gordon Braden, The Idea of the Renaissance

Books to purchase at Stanford bookstore or elsewhere:

by Friedrich Schiller (Author), Walter Hinderer (Editor), Daniel O. Dahlstrom (Editor)

*The Birth of Tragedy and The Case of Wagner* Paperback – April 12, 1967
by Friedrich Nietzsche (Author)

by Stephen Greenblatt (Author)

*The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences* Paperback – March 29, 1994
by Michel Foucault (Author)

*Futures Past: On the Semantics of Historical Time* (Studies in Contemporary German Social Thought.) Paperback – June 16, 2004
by Reinhart Koselleck (Author), Keith Tribe (Translator, Foreword)

*The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge* (Theory and History of Literature, Volume
Postmodernism, or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism (Post-Contemporary Interventions)
Paperback – November 15, 1990
by Fredric Jameson (Author) Publisher: Duke University Press (November 15, 1990)