

**IDSVA SYLLABUS**  
**Seminar IV, Part 1**  
**Aesthetics and Materiality**

<b>Course Number:</b>	801.1
<b>Course Name:</b>	Seminar IV, Part 1: Aesthetics and Materiality
<b>Dates:</b>	June 1 – June 16, 2010
<b>Format:</b>	Residency: Spannocchia Castle, Milan, Paris
<b>Instructor:</b>	Professor Seth Kim-Cohen Visiting Faculty: Howard Caygill, Stephen Greenblatt, John Rajchman, Étienne Balibar , Sharon Hecker
<b>Credits:</b>	1

**Course Description:**

In this residency seminar we revisit Kant and Hegel directly, with a close reading of the Guyer & Matthews contemporary translation of the Third Critique and Knox's translation of Volume I of Hegel's lectures on fine art. The purpose here will be to trace Kant's and Hegel's opposing strains of aesthetics as they develop into twentieth century aesthetic discourse, asking where we might locate a nexus point or moment of synthesis as regards the dialectical history of modern aesthetics that begins with Kant & Hegel. Of particular interest will be the question of the art object's relationship to materiality. This question will hardly be restricted to the matter of aesthetics per se, and will in fact open out on to the wider fields of contemporary philosophy and theory.

Following the Spannocchia seminar the class will depart for Milan. There we will examine Da Vinci's recently restored "The Last Supper" from the standpoint of aesthetics and materiality, and we will visit the studios of several leading contemporary Italian artists, again bearing in mind the relation between aesthetics and materiality. Milan's rich and varied architecture will also provide us an object of study.

We will then move on to Paris, where we will spend six days critiquing works exhibited in the city's museum's and galleries. Each morning will begin with student presentations on the previous day's critical inquiries and the rest of the day will be spent visiting arts venues. We will also spend time with prominent theorists and scholars, discussing Paris's role in the history of art, ideas, modernity, and the vexing question of the contemporary.

**Learning Objectives:**

Aesthetics and Materiality aims to lay a solid foundation for thinking the aesthetics of modernity. Kant and Hegel provide the two primary platforms from which nearly all such thinking departs. The seminar will focus on key terms and concepts in the texts, establish the conventional positions of Kant and Hegel (vis-à-vis aesthetics), and then seek to problematize this conventional positioning. Students should finish the seminar with a working knowledge of the Kantian and Hegelian aesthetic positions.

### **Course Requirements:**

At Spannocchia each student will deliver one fifteen to twenty-minute seminar presentation on a section of the text. Professor Kim-Cohen will announce the seminar presentation schedule. These will be informal, seminar-style presentations. Each student will speak extemporaneously from notes (not reading papers), acting as a guide to the assigned topic from the texts and leading the discussion. You will then be responsible for writing up the presentation and discussion (1,000 – 1,500 words) and submitting it to Professor Kim-Cohen and to IDVA Submission Storage by July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Submitted documents must be titled with both the document name and email subject line according to the following format:

**familyname, givenname\_801.1\_assignmentname\_yymmdd**  
(e.g., “Jones, Sally\_801.1\_Kant\_100223”).

In Milan we will work from project sheets prepared by Professor Sharon Hecker, who will lead the Milan study.

In Paris students will collaborate in small groups and give morning panel presentations on the previous day’s museum and gallery visits.

### **Assessment:**

Grades will be determined as follows:

- Assessment of the oral and written seminar presentations at Spannocchia (50%)
- Participation in the Milan visit (25%)
- Participation in group presentations in Paris (25%)

Late submissions will be accepted but not given credit unless prior arrangements have been made with the course professor. Extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis in response to special circumstances.

Seminar IV, Part 1 counts for 1 credit, Seminar IV, Part 2 counts for 1 credit, and Seminar IV, Part 3 counts for 3 credits.

### **Recommended Texts:**

Caygill, Howard. *A Kant Dictionary*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1995.

### **Required Texts:**

- Hegel, Frederic. *Hegel’s Aesthetic: Lectures on Fine Art*, Vol. 1. Trans. T. M. Knox. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975.

- Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of the Power of Judgment*. Ed., Paul Guyer. Trans Paul Guyer and Eric Matthews. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000.

### **Reading & Writing Schedule:**

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- Both the Kant and the Hegel text should be read before you arrive at Spannocchia.
- Each student will give one 15 to 20-minute presentation at Spannocchia and then lead a discussion.
- The written version of the presentation (1,000 – 1,500 words) is due by midnight July 2, 2010.