

IDSVA SYLLABUS
Seminar IV, Part 2
Aesthetics After Modernism

Course Number: 801.2
Course Name: Seminar IV, Part 2: Aesthetics After Modernism
Dates: Reading Period: July 19 – 31, 2010; Course August 2 – 28, 2010
Format: Online & Teleconference
Instructor: Professor Seth Kim-Cohen
Credits: 1 credit

Course Description:

Seminar IV, Part 2 traces the inheritance of Kant and Hegel in contemporary philosophy and aesthetics. First, we read “Parergon” from Jacques Derrida’s *The Truth In Painting*, a meditation on a key, if often overlooked, component of Kant’s third critique: the question of what is central or proper to the judgment of a work of art. Second, we respond to Merleau-Ponty’s assertion that “all the great philosophical ideas of the last century ... had their beginnings in Hegel.” We trace the trajectory of these ideas through a selection of essays by leading twentieth century Continental philosophers, including: Hyppolite, Adorno, Irigaray, Althusser, and Kristeva,

Learning Objectives:

Seminar IV, Part 2 may be thought of as an interlude, a meditation, coming in between our discussion of Kant and Hegel at Spannocchia and the wider-ranging readings of Seminar IV, Part 3 in the Fall Semester. Having read both Kant and Hegel, directly and in depth, we will now read them along with and through other philosophers who both utilize and problematize the methods and assumptions that have passed from Kant and Hegel to our thinking of art and philosophy over the past two centuries. The primary learning objective for Seminar IV, Part 2 is to situate the contemporary reception of Kant and Hegel in Continental philosophy. In the process we will also situate the individual thinkers weighing in on the Kantian and Hegelian legacies.

Course Requirements:

We will begin with a reading of “Passe-Partout” and “Parergon” from Derrida’s *The Truth In Painting*. On July 19, Professor Kim-Cohen will post questions on First Class, intended to facilitate analytic reading and discussion of the Derrida text. On August 1, the same process will occur for the essays in *Hegel and Contemporary Continental Philosophy*. Professor Kim-Cohen will follow up with individual telephone calls and a seminar conference call.

On August 11, Professor Kim-Cohen will post an essay question pertaining to all the readings. This question is to be discussed on Open Class Forum, in study groups, and on

a seminar conference call. The question will be answered individually in a double-spaced paper of 2500 – 3000 words, due on August 28.

All materials should be delivered to Professor Kim-Cohen via First Class and to IDSSVA Submission Storage. Submitted documents must be titled with both the document name and email subject line according to the following format:

famillyname, givenname_801.2_yymmdd

(e.g., “Jones, Sally_801.2_100223”).

Assessment:

The grade for Seminar IV, part 2 will be determined by participation in Open Class Forum discussions (20%), the seminar conference call (20%), and the grade received on the essay question (60%).

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

Required Texts:

- Jacques Derrida, *The Truth in Painting*, translated by Geoff Bennington and Ian McLeod, University of Chicago Press, 1987.
Read: “Passe-Partout” and “Parergon,” pp. 1 – 147.
- *Hegel and Contemporary Continental Philosophy*, Dennis King Keenan, ed., State University of New York Press, 2004.
Read:
 - Preface
 - Chapter 5: Maurice Merleau-Ponty
 - Chapter 8: Jean Hyppolite
 - Chapter 9: Georges Bataille
 - Chapter 11: Theodor Adorno
 - Chapter 13: Louis Althusser
 - Chapter 16: Luce Irigaray
 - Chapter 17: Julia Kristeva
 - Chapter 22: Judith Butler

Seminar Schedule:

July 19 - 31	Read: “Passe-Partout” and “Parergon” in <i>The Truth In Painting</i> .
August 1 - 10	Read: Preface and selected chapters in <i>Hegel and Contemporary Continental Philosophy</i> .
Aug 11 - 15	Discuss readings and essay question on Open Class Forum, in study groups, and on seminar conference call (to be scheduled).
Aug 16 - 28	Complete essay.