

IDSVA SYLLABUS
Directed Reading II, Part 1
Contemporary Readings: Cage to Nancy

Course Number:	903.1
Course Name:	Directed Reading II, Part 1: Contemporary Readings: Cage to Nancy
Dates:	January 10 – April 16, 2011 (Spring Break March 7 – 11)
Format:	Online & Teleconference
Instructor:	Professor George Smith
Credits:	3 Credits

Course Description:

Directed Reading II extends from Directed Reading I, Part 3 (Foundational Texts: Plato to Kristeva). The purpose of Directed Reading II is to situate the issues covered in Directed Reading I, Part 3 within contemporary issues in philosophy, aesthetics, and art theory. As with Directed Reading I, Part 3, our problem remains to answer the question, What is *our* contribution to the on-going dialogue in contemporary philosophy, aesthetics, and art theory?

As with Directed Reading I, Part 3, Directed Reading II is categorized as a Directed Reading in part because it transfers the center of instruction from the course professor to the course participant. While I will “direct” the reading insofar as I have arranged the syllabus and will provide the framework for discussion, chief responsibility for conducting the course will fall to members of the class. This is to help third-year students become more confident in and reliant on one another’s grasp of key concepts. With greater peer reliance comes more individual responsibility. This in itself becomes a source of further intellectual and professional development.

To that end every student will take a lead in discussing the texts (see below.) Discussion leaders are encouraged to conduct outside research as they think about what questions to pose and what problems to address. Each discussion should begin with an exposition of the text’s central thesis, an analysis of its main points in defense thereof, and a consideration of its intertextual relation to the pertinent arguments that come before and after it. This latter step is especially important as regards preparation for the oral exam.

NOTE: Directed Reading II, Part 1 will be extended into directed Reading II, Part 2. At this point I will remove myself from the course, and the students will direct part 2. Directed Reading II, Part 2 will run from April 18 to May 21.

Learning Objectives:

In addition to developing the knowledge and skills requisite to addressing the above-proposed question, our larger learning goal is to integrate Directed Reading II with our previous seminar readings, to continue the work of shaping these readings into an organically developed narrative. This narrative, which we call the history of ideas, is meant to inform our thinking in preparation for the oral examinations and to widen the theoretical scope of the thesis project.

Course Requirements:

Toward the end of each reading a designated discussion leader will post a question or questions on Open Class Forum and lead the online discussion. At the end of reading numbers three and six, I will post a notice on IDSVS Seminars Cohort 1, asking you to submit a three to five-page analysis of the intertextual relations among the three texts most recently read and discussed in Open Class Forum. My questions will be formulated as examples of the kind that might be posed as part of the Oral Exam. Written responses will be worked out in student teleconferences (schedule TBA).

A final ten-page thematization of the intertextual relations among the required texts will be due April 16. This final essay is to be prepared through group collaboration via teleconferencing (date TBA).

The writing assignments and the final essay should be submitted to me via FirstClass and to IDSVS Submission Storage. Submitted documents must be titled with both the document name and email subject line according to the following format:

famillyname, givenname_903.1_assignment #_yymmdd
(e.g., “Jones, Sally_903.1_assignment 1_100223”).

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

Weekly thirty-minute telephone call times TBA.

Assessment:

Grades will be determined by assessment of contributions to Open Class Forum & teleconferencing (20%); Writing Assignments (30%); Final Essay (50%).

Credit for Directed Reading II is distributed as follows:

Directed Reading II, Part 1 counts for 3 credits.

Directed Reading II, Part 2 counts for 2 credits.

Total Credits for Directed Reading II: 5.

Required Texts (Schedule TBA):

(text discussion leaders TBA)

1. Cage, John. *Silence*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 1961. (1961)
2. Barthes, Roland. *S/Z*. Trans. Richard Miller. Malden, MA and Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 1974. (1970)
3. Krauss, Rosalind. *The Originality of the Avant Garde and Other Modernist Myths*. Cambridge, MIT Press. (1985)
4. Kittler, Friedrich. *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*. Trans. Geoffrey Winthrop-Young and Michael Wutz. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999. (1986)
5. Foucault, Michel. *The Order of Things*. London: Routledge, 1989. (1966)
6. Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble*. New York: Routledge, 2007. (1990)
7. Lyotard, Jean-François. *The Inhuman: Reflections on Time*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1991. (1991)
8. Harraway, Donna. *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*. London: Routledge, 1991. (1991)
9. Nancy, Jean-Luc. *The Birth to Presence*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1993. (1993)

Writing Schedule:

Assignment 1	TBA
Assignment 2	TBA
Final Essay	TBA

IDSVA SYLLABUS
Directed Reading II, Part 2
Contemporary Readings: Bourriaud to Agamben

Course Number:	903.2
Course Name:	Directed Reading II, Part 1: Contemporary Readings: Bourriaud to Agamben
Dates:	April 18 – May 21, 2011
Format:	Online & Teleconference
Instructor:	IDSVA Third Year Fellows
Credits:	2 Credits

Course Description:

In Directed Reading II, Part 2, IDSVA Third Year Fellows will assume responsibility for the direction and instruction of the course. Teaching responsibilities will be divided amongst the Fellows, with two Fellows being responsible for delivering instruction on one assigned text.

Learning Goals:

Directed Reading II, Part 2 will give IDSVA Third Year Fellows the opportunity to apply the skills that they have developed as students in the capacity of an instructor. Fellows will be expected to facilitate informed instruction on assigned texts, but will also extrapolate and develop the intertextual relations amongst the texts in general.

Course Requirements:

Directed Reading II, Part 2 consists of four texts. There will be two fellows assigned as instructors per text (see schedule below). From April 18 - May 8, Fellows will complete the reading of the four texts that are to be discussed. During this time, Open Class Forum may be used to facilitate discussion. From May 9 - 21, two conference calls will be held (dates to be decided upon). During each teleconference, we will be discussing two of the four texts. The Fellows who have been assigned to these texts will be responsible for delivering a 10 minute presentation/lecture on the assigned text. Following these presentations, time will be allotted for general discussion.

In addition to the presentation, each Fellow will produce a syllabus for the text that s/he is assigned. This syllabus should outline a general methodological/ pedagogical approach to the presentation (**Note:** The two fellows assigned to each text may decide to produce separate syllabi or to collaborate on a single one). The syllabus should also include lecture notes (or some other physical manifestation of the presentation). Once the syllabi have been completed, they will be compiled as a single document and will represent the overall syllabus for the course, which will be archived on IDSVA's website.

DR II, P 2 Assessment:

Grades will be determined by self-evaluation. At the end of the semester, Fellows will be responsible for producing an approximately one page document detailing what it is they accomplished during the course, both as a student, and as an instructor.

Credit for Directed Reading II is distributed as follows:

Directed Reading II, Part 1 counts for 3 credits.

Directed Reading I, Part 2 counts for 2 credits.

Total Credits for Directed Reading II: 5.

DR II, P2 Reading List and Schedule:

(Text instructors are designated to the right):

1. Bourriaud, Nicolas. *Relational Aesthetics*. Lyon: Presses du Reel. 1998.
2. Badiou, Alain. *Infinite Thought*. Trans. Oliver Feltham and Juston Clemens. London: Continuum, 2004.
3. Rancière, Jacques. *The Politics of Aesthetics*. London: Continuum, 2004.
4. Agamben, Giorgio. *What Is An Apparatus?* Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2009.

Reading and Presentation Schedule: TBA