

SS 251A, Autumn 2007  
SOPHOMORE SEMINAR  
**Voices Against the Chorus**

Room 04, MW 10:30 am – 11:55 pm

office hours: Thursdays, 1:00 – 4:00pm, & by appointment

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This seminar explores the development of some of the ideas that have become central to the Western definition of the modern world. Its focus is on how nineteenth- and early twentieth-century thinkers in various disciplines confronted and challenged ideas and categories, and how, finally, they constructed radically different conceptions of the world around them. Class sessions will be supplemented by several evening lectures on the historical context and reception of the readings, presented by SRC faculty and guest lecturers. Course objectives include the development of the student's ability to read texts critically, to think clearly, and to express him/herself with clarity; the critical examination of the assumptions and ideologies that these writers and works opposed, as well as those they embodied; and the exploration of the historical and social context of these works.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Charles Darwin, *Selected Writings*, Norton Critical Edition, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed

W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (1930)

E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India* (1924)

Franz Kafka, *The Trial* (1904)

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, d. E. Kamenka *The Portable Karl Marx*

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals* (1887)

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925)

### EXPECTATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

#### *Attendance and Preparation*

You are required to attend class having carefully prepared the assigned reading for the day. You must bring the text to class. Active class participation is not only required, it is expected. The point is not to have understood everything before coming to class—your treasure is the questions, difficulties and issues that arise from what is read, because they eventually determine what course the class will take.

I will follow the college attendance policy, very strictly. Two unexcused absences will earn you an official warning. Three unexcused absences shall result in suspension. Tardiness is disrespectful, and counts against you.

#### *Written Work*

The seminar will require successful completion of four projects, by the dates mentioned in the schedule below. The form of these projects can vary over the course of the term, and we will finalise this through class discussion and approval of the instructor. They will range from expository and exegetical essays, to various forms of interpretation, each with an explicit writing component and elaborate **process notes** (which will require maintaining a journal throughout the semester). Each of these projects will be worth 20% of the grade. You will

also submit a final self-evaluation with the last project (also requiring references to your process as contained within the journal), which will augment every project's stand-alone grade. *I will provide specific instructions and a choice of topics/questions/interpretive forms to be addressed.*

### *Films & Lectures*

Where possible, I have assigned films to supplement our readings. Please note down the relevant weeks, and we will work together to find a time that works for everyone. This will probably be an evening outside of normal class time, anytime during the week for which it is assigned, especially if the film is a full-length feature.

Attendance at all Sophomore Seminar lectures, on days specified in the class schedule below, is required.

### *Final Exam*

A concluding activity, as designed by the class upon the instructor's advice, will serve as the final exam for this course. We will discuss this in class in greater detail.

For course policies on Academic Honesty and Religious Holidays, please refer to the SRC Catalogue, pp. 31-33. For issues of learning skills, and subsequent accommodations, please get in touch with me, and also contact Rebecca Fiske (rebecca@simons-rock.edu).

### *A sketch of your grade composition*

Participation, Films, Lectures, etc.	15%
Written work (4 projects, including process journals) + final exam	85%

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

All pagination refers to the required texts listed above. Readings marked with an asterisk will be made available via electronic reserve.

Monday, 27 August	Breaking Ice...
Wednesday, 29 August	Darwin, pp. 2-20, 22-29, 82-94
Monday, 3 September	Darwin, pp. 95-98, 111-135, 158-174,
Wednesday, 5 September	Darwin, pp. 175-177, 222-254 Film: TBA
Monday, 10 September	Marx, pp. 96-114, 158-161
Monday, 10 September	Lecture 1, "Is There Evolution after Darwin?", Coggins
Wednesday, 12 September	Marx, pp. 163-173, 189-195
Monday, 17 September	Marx, pp. 203-244, pp. 533-555 Film: TBA
Wednesday, 19 September	Marx, pp. 432-465
Monday, 24 September	Marx, pp. 493-503, 329-355
Wednesday, 26 September	DuBois, pp. 5-6, 9-61
Friday, 28 September	<b>Journals + First Project Due</b>
Monday, 1 October	DuBois, pp. 62-129

Wednesday, 3 October	DuBois, pp. 130-164
Monday, 8 October	NO CLASS—Fall Break
Wednesday, 10 October	NO CLASS—Fall Break
Monday, 15 October	Forster, “Mosque” (you should try to read as much of the book as you can over break)
Monday, 15 October	Lecture 2, “Walking on Walls: Notes on DuBois and Forster” (Abbas)
Wednesday, 17 October	Forster, “Caves”
Monday, 22 October	Forster, “Temple”
Wednesday, 24 October	Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Introduction and Essay I
Friday, 26 October	<b>Journals + Second Project Due</b>
Monday, 29 October	Nietzsche, Essay II
Wednesday, 31 October	Nietzsche, Essay III
Monday, 5 November	*Foucault, “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History”
Monday, 5 November	Lecture 3, “Freud (Marx/Darwin) and the Modern <i>Zeitgeist</i> ,” Rodgers
Wednesday, 7 November	Freud, Parts I-IV
Monday, 12 November	Freud, Parts V-VIII
Wednesday, 14 November	*Marcuse, Herbert. “Eros and Civilisation” (selection) Film: TBA
Monday, 19 November	NO CLASS—Thanksgiving Break
Wednesday, 21 November	NO CLASS—Thanksgiving Break
Monday, 26 November	<b>Journals and Third Project Due</b>
	Woolf, pp. 3-64 (you should try to read as much of the book as you can, over break)
Monday, 26 November	Lecture 4, “Off the Beaten Path: Virginia Woolf’s Critique of Patriarchal Capitalist Militarism” (de Hernandez)
Wednesday, 28 November	Woolf, pp. 64-151
Monday, 3 December	Woolf, pp. 151-194
Wednesday, 5 December	Kafka, pp. 3-79
Monday, 10 December	Kafka, pp. 80-198 Film: TBA
Wednesday, 12 December	Kafka, pp. 199-231 and fragments
Wednesday, 19 December	<b>Journals + Fourth Project Due</b>
Finals Week—date to be determined	<b>Final Exam/Activity</b>