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Spring 2011

Thursday 8:00 – 10:00

[Feb, 24. Mar. 10 & 24. Apr, 21.  
May, 5 & 19]

Saturday 8:30 – 11:30 April, 9

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# Epistemology II

## Post-Modernism & Post-Structuralism CFDL 605

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Instructor: Benjamin Galatzer-Levy

E-Mail: benjamingalatzerlevy@gmail.com

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### Overview

The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the emergence of a nebulous artistic and intellectual milieu. This milieu, what is called Postmodernism, was characterized more by a suspicion of positive ideology and academic playfulness than any unifying principle. Postmodern thought has been applied to every human endeavor from the sciences and arts to architecture and marketing. As a term Postmodern has been used pejoratively, ironically, and humorously. It has been used to define everything from sit-coms to the contemporary historical epoch. In this class we will consider its significance for psychoanalysis as well as psychoanalysis' significance for the growth of postmodernity.

### Requirements

Students are expected to attend and prepare assigned reading for each lecture. Grades will be assigned based on the following:

1. Active engagement with discussion questions in between class meetings, including proposing new questions, addressing issues raised by other students, offering personal insights and perspectives on material, and suggesting additional material of interest where appropriate. Students are especially encouraged to bring in issues and ideas related to the expertise they are developing in their dissertation work.
2. A final paper with a minimum length of ten double-spaced pages. Final papers should be original research related to the student's dissertation topic. Specifically, final papers should take up some theme or specific thinker from the course and consider the epistemological implications for the student's dissertation research. Student's are free to append abstracts and research agendas to their final paper not be included in the final page count; papers should not consist significantly of descriptions or appraisals of the student's dissertation topic.

### Class Meetings

Excepting student presentations and on-sight meetings, classes will be primarily in lecture based.

## Section One: Wonderment

Week One: Introduction: What is a Philosopher?

-No required reading

Week Two: Wonderment and Discourse

-Selections from Plato's Republic and The Meno

-Galatzer-Levy: Toward a Therapeutic Reading of Plato's Thrasymachus

Week Three: What is Modernity

-Reading: Immanuel Kant, What is Enlightenment?

-Michel Foucault, What is Enlightenment?

## Section Two: Knowing and Identity

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Week Four: Modernity in Crisis

-Readings: Husserl, Selections from Phenomenology and the Crisis of the European Sciences

Week Five: The Post-Structuralist Controversy

Richard Macksey, Lions and Squares: Opening Remarks

Michel Foucault: Selections from Madness and Civilization

Week Six: What's in a Word?

-Readings: Freud, The Question of Lay Analysis

Bruno Bettelheim, Selections from Freud and Man's Soul

## Section Three: Praxis

Week Seven: Specters Of Marx

-Readings: Alexandre Kojeve, *In Place of an Introduction in Introduction to the Reading of Hegel*

Karl Marx, Alienated Labor in The 1844 (Paris) Manuscripts

Jurgen Habermas, Psychoanalysis and Social Theory

Week Eight: The Public and Its Problems

-Readings: Jacques Derrida, Learning to Live Finally

Jacques Derrida, To do Justice to Freud

