

**IDSVA SYLLABUS**  
**Seminar VI**  
**Toward an Ethico-Aesthetics**  
**Spring 2021**

**Part 1: New York Intensive**

**Course Number:** 803.1  
**Course Name:** Seminar VI, Part 1: NYC Intensive  
**Dates:** January 4 – 10, 2021  
**Format:** Online  
**Credits:** ½

**Part 2: Online section**

**Course Number:** 803.2  
**Course Name:** Seminar VI, Part 2: Toward an Ethico-Aesthetics  
**Dates:** Jan 25 – April 17, 2021  
**Format:** Online/Teleconference  
**Instructors:** Prof. Grant Farred, Prof. Dejan Lukic  
**TA**  
**Credits:** 5

**Course Description**

Seminar VI begins with a week-long January intensive residency conducted remotely. The online seminar will include a lecture by Visiting Faculty Jane Taylor (Andrew W. Mellon Chair of Aesthetic Theory and Material Performance at the Centre for Humanities Research at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa), “Of Moving and Being Moved: The Subject and the Object In puppetry and AI”; a lecture by Core Faculty Dejan Lukic, “Deranged Vivarium: Variations on Coexistence”; and a lecture in two parts by Professor George Smith, “Western Metaphysics and the Future of New Philosophy.”

Seminar presentations focus on IS papers students wrote during the fall semester in the 802 course. An additional workshop provides a forum to discuss the IDSVA guidelines of academic writing.

Seminar VI, Part 2, will re-ask the questions: “what is art?” and “what is art’s responsibility?” Insofar as ethics and aesthetics are situated as mutually exclusive terms within the formalist construct, the title of the seminar already indicates a theoretical disposition: that is, a movement in the direction of a “new” ethical and aesthetic paradigm. This movement implies both futurity (whereby philosophical thought proposes and announces), as well as multi-directionality

(whereby we enter into a multiplicity of time and space). Ultimately, we will try to define that very moment in which ethics and aesthetics hermeneutically merge in the domain of art.

To this end we will deal with concepts such as “mobilization”, “rhizome”, “and”, “geophilosophy”, “apocalypse”, “asymmetry”, etc., in the context of four themes of inquiry: “Race,” “Metaphors of the End,” “Ends of Man,” and “Art & Politics.” All of these concepts are corresponding to the end of some historical paradigm. But the “end” signals not to a full-stop of thinking or experience, but rather to a “shift,” a yet another reorientation, a yet another towards.

This conceptual move will allow us to consider the philosophical relation of ethics to aesthetics and vice versa as implicit in the term “representation.” This in turn becomes the signal ethico-aesthetic question in the work of Fanon, Nietzsche, Deleuze, Sloterdijk, Junger, Berardi, Heidegger, and Derrida, among others.

## Learning Objectives

- To elucidate the fundamental concepts comprising an ethico-aesthetics.
- To refine and advance students’ critical thinking and writing skills, through intensive engagement with the history of ideas in philosophy, art, and aesthetics.
- To further develop intertextual analysis as a fundamental critical methodology.

## Course Requirements

- **Writing Assignment** –
  - **Assignment 1 (5-8 pp double-spaced)**      **Q Posted 3/3 Due 3/22 (Lukic)**
  - **Assignment 2 (9-10 pp double-spaced)**      **Q Posted 3/29 Due 4/17 (Farred)**
- **Note:**
  - Writing assignments should be submitted to Professors Farred and Lukic via Canvas (Assignments section).
  - Late submissions will be accepted but not given credit unless prior arrangements have been made with Professors Farred and Lukic.
  - Extensions will only be granted on a case-by-case basis in response to exceptional circumstances.
  - Papers must follow MLA Style.
  - Files MUST be named according to the following format:  
**familyname, givenname\_803\_assignment #\_yymmdd**  
(e.g., “Jones, Sally\_803\_assignment 1\_160223”).
- **Open Class Forum:** Students can initiate optional written discussion in Canvas (“Discussions” area) every week. However, in designated OCF weeks the discussion will be more structured and will require students to answer specific questions. OCF should be considered as a focused conversation with the readings and one another (not a social-media style forum for scattered musings). The primary goal for the OCF is to guide students in the task of “formulating the question”; the TA will model the questions to facilitate the learning process.

- During OCF weeks, the TA will post a couple of intertextual questions based on the assigned readings (these questions will be ‘pinned’ by the TA). Each student is required to answer/address a question at least once in the discussion thread, and for each OCF-designated week. Students are encouraged to pose their own questions as well, as part of their answers.
- These responses should be posted preferably by the middle of the week, to allow for the discussion to take place with other members of the class.
- Replies to questions should be **thoughtful and succinct (under 200 words)** in order to keep the conversation lively and to the point.
- Replies should (i) address at least one of the questions, and (ii) engage productively with other student comments.
- The TA will act as a mediator and step in whenever necessary to provide feedback or refocus the conversation if it goes out of track.

In addition to serving our immediate learning and engagement with the material, Open Class Forum discussions should also lay the groundwork for the seminar essay assignments. Cohort OCF discussion is archived for this purpose. Moreover, if you have a good solid OCF trail, oral exam prep is very doable. Without that, orals prep can be very difficult.

- **Individual Telephone Calls** – Faculty will conduct a phone call with each student roughly every three weeks. The TA will circulate a spreadsheet ahead of time for students to sign up for a 30-minute slot. Students are responsible to keep a calendar with scheduled calls and make up for any missed call.
- **Videoconferences:** The seminar will convene a series of videoconferences over the course of the semester. All videoconferences are recorded and archived in Canvas/Conferences. Attendance policy: students are expected to attend *every* class. Video recordings are available as a make-up resource for missed classes, but they should not be considered equivalent to attending the class in person. More than two missed conferences will lower the final grade of 0.25 points per missed conference.

## Assessment and Grades

Grades will be determined as follows:

- Posted OCF Questions Discussion (15%)
- Contributions to Teleconferences (15%)
- Writing Assignments 1 and 2: 70%

## Recommended Texts

1. *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Stanford Online. (See especially Plato & Aristotle on ethics & Kant’s Moral Philosophy): <https://plato.stanford.edu/> .
2. **Furrow, Dwight.** *Ethics: Key Concepts in Philosophy*. New York: Continuum, 2005. ISBN: 9780826472458

3. *Correspondence 1949-1975: Martin Heidegger, Ernst Junger* (London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008). (ca. 100 p.) PDF

## Required Texts (in order of reading schedule)

❖Indicates selections only.

“PDF” Indicates that readings will be available via Canvas/Files.

1. **Fanon, Frantz.** *Black Skin, White Masks*. Trans. Richard Philcox. New York: Grove Press, 2008. ISBN-10: 0-8021-4300-8, ISBN-13: 978-0-8021-4300-6. (181 pp.)
2. **Heidegger, Martin.** *Being and Time*. Trans. Joan Stambaugh. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2010. ISBN-10: 1438432763, ISBN-13: 9781438432762.
3. **Derrida, Jacques.** *Psyche: Inventions of the Other (Vol. 1)*. Ed. Peggy Kamuf and Elizabeth Rottenberg. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007. ❖“Psyche: Invention of the Other” and “At this very moment in this work”; “Racism’s last word.” PDF
4. **Junger, Ernst.** *On Pain*, New York, Telos, [1934] 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0914386407, ISBN-10: 0914386409. (pp. 1-47). (47 pp.)
5. **Junger, Ernst.** “Total Mobilization,” in *The Heidegger Controversy: A Critical Reader*, Boston, Mass., MIT Press, 1992. ISBN: 9780262731010. (ca. 15 pp.)
6. **Deleuze, Gilles and Felix Guattari.** *A Thousand Plateaus*. Trans. Brian Massumi. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987. ISBN 0-8166-1402-4 OR 0-8166-1401-6. ❖ Intro: “Rhizome,” 3-26. (23 pp.)
7. **Deleuze, Gilles and Felix Guattari.** *What is Philosophy?* ❖Chapter 4, “Geophilosophy,” 85-113. (28 pp.) PDF
8. **Didi-Huberman, Georges.** *Survival of the Fireflies*. Trans. Lia Swope Mitchell. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-5179-0574-3. (107 pp.) PDF
9. **Sloterdijk, Peter.** *In the World Interior of Capital. For a Philosophical Theory of Globalization*. ❖ Chapters 1-16, pp. 3-93; Chapters 28-33, pp.139-176. (127 pp.) PDF
10. **Berardi, Franco “Bifo.”** *And: Phenomenology of the End*. ❖ Semiotext(e) Foreign Agent Series/The MIT Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-58435-170-2. (Read: Introduction, pp. 9-24; Chapter 3, “Aesthetic Genealogy of Globalization,” pp. 91-113). (37 pp.) PDF

11. **Nietzsche, Friedrich.** *Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book for All and None.* Ed. Adrian del Caro, Robert B. Pippin. Trans. Adrian del Caro. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
12. **Heidegger, Martin.** “What Is Called Thinking?”. A Translation of *Was Heisst Denken?* by Fred D. Wieck and J. Glenn Gray, with an Introduction by J. Glenn Gray. New York: Harper & Row, 1968. ❖Part 1: Lectures I-X. **(110 pp.) PDF**

## **Course Schedule\***

Weeks: Monday-Sunday

VC= Video Conference

OCF= Open Class Forum (asynchronous written discussion in Canvas)

Calls= Individual calls

## **Section 1: Race (Farred)**

Week 1 (Jan 25-31)

**VC: Monday 1/25, 12-2 pm EST**

Fanon

Heidegger, B&T (1)

Week 2 (Feb 1-7)

**VC: Monday 2/1, 12-2pm EST**

+ **OCF**

Heidegger, B&T (2)

Week 3 (Feb 8-14)

**VC: Monday 2/8, 12-2pm EST**

Derrida

Check also related links to the exhibition for which the essay “Racism’s Last Word” was written:

<https://www.chrflagship.uwc.ac.za/media/galleries/art-against-apartheid-collection/>

<https://hyperallergic.com/514537/medu-art-ensemble-and-the-anti-apartheid-poster-the-art-institute-of-chicago/>

## **Section 2: Metaphors of the End (Lukic)**

Week 4 (Feb 15-21)

**Calls**

Junger, *On Pain* (pp. 1-47); “Total Mobilization” (ca. 15 pp.)

Suggested reading:

*Correspondence 1949-1975: Martin Heidegger, Ernst Junger* [PDF]

Week 5 (Feb 22-28)

**VC: Monday, 2/22, 5-7pm EST**

+ **OCF**

Deleuze & Guattari, *Thousand Plateaus* ❖ (Introduction: “Rhizome”)

Deleuze & Guattari. What is Philosophy? ❖ (Chapter 4, “Geophilosophy,” pp. 85-113)

**Assignment 1 Question Posted Feb 28, due March 22**

**March 1-7: Spring break**

## **Section 3: Ends of man (Lukic)**

Week 6 (March 8-14)

**VC: Monday, 3/8, 5-7pm EST**

Didi-Huberman, *Survival of the Fireflies*

Week 7 (March 15-21)

**OCF**

Sloterdijk, *In the World Interior of Capital. For a Philosophical Theory of Globalization* ❖ (Chapters 1-16, pp. 3-93; Chapters 28-33, pp.139-176)

Week 8 (March 22-28)

**CALLS (Time TBD)**

Berardi, *And. Phenomenology of the End* ❖ (Introduction, pp. 9-24; Chapter 3, pp. 91-113)

**Assignment 1 due March 22**

## **Section 4: Art & Politics (Farred)**

Week 9 (March 29-April 4\*) \*Easter Sunday April 4

**VC: Monday, 3/29, 12-2pm EST**

Nietzsche, *Zarathustra*

**Assignment 2 Question posted March 29, due April 17**

Week 10 (April 5-11)

**VC: Monday, 4/5, 12-2pm EST**

Heidegger, “What calls for Thinking” (Part 1)

Week 11 (April 12-17)

**Reading Week – no class activity**

**Assignment 2 due April 17**

**END OF SEMESTER**

\*Course schedule may be subject to change