

Future of General Theory: The case of Critical University Studies

ENGLISH 236

Winter 2013 SH 2617

7:50 PM Prof. Christopher Newfield

cnewf@english.ucsb.edu

Office: SH 2517

appt

<http://utotherescue.blogspot.com>

T 5:00 PM -

Office Hours: Wed 13h00-15h00 & by

This course has several goals:

- (1) To assess higher education in the U.S., with a focus on the liberal arts.
- (2) To see what light literary theory sheds on education's cultural and intellectual conditions.
- (3) To identify the university environment we want and need.
- (4) To develop collaborative research practices that will make the work easier and more fun.

In other words, there can be black ink people and blue ink people, who will split the work. Anyone is welcome to be covering all the reading, as I of course will be, but this is not required.

Grading: attendance and participation. Variable final projects, with a bias towards public writing, including online resource development.

1. Jan 08 **Introduction: The Devolutionary Cycle. Can Theory Help?**
Adam Schatz, "Not in the Mood" (review of Derrida biography)
Fredric Jameson, "Dirty Little Secret" (review of *The Program Era*)
Aaron Bady, "Lincoln Against the Radicals," *Jacobin*

2. Jan 15 **Theory as the History of the University**
Bill Readings, *The University in Ruins*, chs 1, 3-7 (b)
Matthew Arnold, "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time" (n)
Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The Poet" (n)
John Guillory, *Cultural Capital*, pp 55-82 (x)
Friedrich Nietzsche, from *The Birth of Tragedy* (n)

3. Jan 22 **Privatization of Public Universities**
Chris Newfield, *Unmaking the Public University*, chs 8-14
Louis Althusser, from *Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses* (n)
Pierre Bourdieu, from *Distinction* (n)
Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (n)

4. Jan 29 **Research As Science: is Literary Study Part of the Knowledge Economy?**
Philip Mirowski, *Science Mart: Privatizing American Science*, chs 1-3, 7
Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility" (n)
Raymond Williams, "Base and Superstructure in Marxist Cultural Theory" (n)

5. Feb 05 **Tuition Hikes in the Low-Wage Nation**
Marc Bousquet, *How the University Works* chs 1-3
Karl Marx, from *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* and *The Communist Manifesto* (n)
6. Feb 12 **The Student Debt Bubble and Useless Majors**
Marc Bousquet, *How the University Works* chs 4-6
Aristotle, from *Poetics* (n)
Longinus, *On Sublimity* (n)
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, from *Biographia Literaria* (n)
7. Feb 19 **The E-Learning Diversion and Academic Work**
David F. Noble, *Digital Diploma Mills*
Michelle Masse, *Over Ten Million Served*
Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble* (n)
Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, from *Epistemology of the Closet*
8. Feb 26 **Reversing Devolution (1): Moderate Strategies**
Derek Bok, *Our Underachieving Colleges*, chs 3-6, 10, 12
Jean Baudrillard, from *The Procession of Simulacra* (n)
Immanuel Kant, from *Critique of Judgement*
9. Mar 05 **Reversing Devolution (2) Radical Strategies of Anti-Capitalism**
To be researched and decided

Fredric Jameson, from *The Political Unconscious* (n)
Leon Trotsky, “Literature and Revolution” (n)
Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, from *A Thousand Plateaus*
10. Mar 12 **Reversing Devolution (3) Radical Strategies of Identity & Literature**
To be decided
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, Vol. I (n)
Hélène Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa” (n)

BOOKS ORDERED

Bok, Derek. *Our Underachieving Colleges: A Candid Look at How Much Students Learn and Why They Should Be Learning More*. Princeton University Press, 2007. 0691136181

Bousquet, Marc, *How the University Works: Higher Education and the Low-Wage Nation* (New York: NYUP, 2008). 0814799752

Collini, Stefan. *What Are Universities For?* Penguin Press/Classics, 2012. 1846144825

Leitch, Vincent B., William E. Cain, Laurie A. Finke, Barbara E. Johnson, John McGowan, T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting, and Jeffrey J. Williams, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. Second ed. W. W. Norton & Company, 2010. 0393932923

Masse, Michelle A., ed. *Over Ten Million Served: Gendered Service in Language and Literature Workplaces*. State University of New York Press, 2010. 143843202X

Mirowski, Philip. *Science-Mart: Privatizing American Science*. Harvard University Press, 2011. 0674046463

Newfield, Christopher. *Unmaking the Public University: The Forty-Year Assault on the Middle Class*. Reprint. Harvard University Press, 2011. 0674060369

Noble, David F. *Digital Diploma Mills: The Automation of Higher Education*. Monthly Review Press, 2003. 1583670920

Readings, Bill. *The University in Ruins*. Harvard University Press, 1997. 0674929535