

ST 111 K1
Modernity and Its Discontents
Fall 2016

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Office Hours: M 2:30-4:00; W 11:15-1:00; by appointment.
(Office hours are held in Mugar Library, Room 406)

Welcome to the KHC Studio:

Your first year in the Kilachand Honors College introduces you to the modern university and to the intellectual life of metropolitan Boston, emphasizing the creative and multifaceted academic community of Boston University and its surrounding environment. The Studio complements the other elements of the KHC curriculum by providing you with a structured, curricular setting in which you can develop your abilities in writing and communication and your understanding of research methods. The Studio is a one-year integrated course, with a curriculum designed as an arc that begins by introducing you to some foundational texts and writing skills. The Studio then moves you towards the development of research and advanced writing skills through the completion of a final research paper, the capstone paper of the two-semester Studio. The final research paper is your opportunity to carry out a detailed examination and contextualization of a reading or issue pertaining to the subject of the Studio: “Modernity and Its Discontents.”

Course Description:

The Fall and Spring Studios, “Modernity and its Discontents” will explore a series of ethical, aesthetic, and social questions through significant “modernist” texts. Modernism was a radical shift in thought that emerged in the late-19th and 20th centuries against the backdrop of democratic politics, industrial capitalism, and imperial expansion. Modernist artists and intellectuals responded to profound socioeconomic, political, and technological changes and rebelled against traditional styles, values, and conventions. Although the modernist texts that we will read in this course may seem distant, they raise fundamental questions about what is good, true, beautiful, and normal – values and ideas that shape contemporary intellectual discourse. Furthermore, these texts provide us with the opportunity to examine our own values, assumptions, and conflicts.

Studio Sections:

The Studio is designed as a two-semester, sequential course; however, students will not necessarily have the same instructor or classmates in both terms, grades and performance in the fall will have no official bearing on grades in the spring, and all students are encouraged to treat the spring semester as an opportunity to approach the material in new and different ways. Moreover, while all 10 sections of KHC Studio share a common curriculum, course goals, and required texts, you will find variation from class to class. Deadlines and some assignments will also vary depending on your Studio instructor and your individual section.

Fall Studio Goals

- o To read and write analytically, summarize, and use textual evidence appropriately and effectively;
- o To generate, and write from, problems and questions rather than “topics”;
- o To learn to work productively from a position of not knowing; to appreciate learning more than being right; to use moments of ambiguity and complexity as opportunities for exploration in class and on the page;
- o To understand that essays and arguments have a shape or structure, and to write well-organized essays with well-structured arguments;
- o To revise rigorously, even courageously (a draft may well get worse before it gets better);
- o To use one text to illuminate another (or several others);
- o To set your own learning goals and to work toward those goals independently.

Fall Texts:

- o Freud, Sigmund. *Civilization and its Discontents*. W. W. Norton & Company; Reprint edition (1903) 2010.
- o Nietzsche, Friedrich. *On the Genealogy of Morals: A Polemic*. Oxford University Press, (1887) 2009.
- o Woolf, Virginia and Francine Prose. *Mrs. Dalloway* (Annotated) Mariner Books (1925) 1990.

Other required readings are available at the Blackboard site. Go to <https://learn.bu.edu> and follow instructions to log in. There you will find posted a copy of the syllabus and other information. The Blackboard site also contains an area for you to upload assignments if necessary. Instructions for doing this will be provided.

Fall Studio Requirements

- o Essay 1: 25%
- o Essay 2: 30%
- o First Reflective Essay 5%
- o Final Reflective Essay 10%
- o Writing Exercises: 10%
- o Tutorials: 10%
- o Class Participation: 10%

AssignmentsWriting Exercises

Writing Exercises are “low-stakes,” (see handout on this term) short, one-page, single-spaced assignments, due in class on the day scheduled, and built around the course goals and the assigned text(s) for the week they are due. These exercises will facilitate discussion of the readings and help you develop the skills necessary for composing essays. They will be graded on a check-plus/check/check-minus basis. “Check-plus” equals full credit, “check” equals 85% credit, and “minus” equals 75%.

Essays

You will complete two major essays for the fall Studio, as well as two reflective essays. The major essays will ask you to engage our texts in terms of their ethical and moral concerns, while the reflective essays will ask you to incorporate your own sense of ethics. Each essay assignment will include specific instructions and criteria for grading.

Sharing of Student Writing

Experienced writers routinely share their work with others, because they understand that the best way to improve a piece of writing is to test it out with actual readers. In this class, you will learn how to respond productively to the writing of others and how to use feedback from others to improve your own work. All students in the class will be required to share at least one draft of each paper. If you are concerned about sharing your writing, please talk with me about your concerns.

TutorialsDescription:

Tutorials are principally designed to address issues of writing. However, they also offer you the opportunity to go into greater depth in exploring aspects of the readings that interest you. You should come to tutorial prepared and with a plan for what you would like to achieve.

Procedure:

You and your instructor will arrange to meet 4-5 times during the semester, each meeting lasting 20-30 minutes. Treat this commitment as you would a class. Come prepared with relevant readings and writing assignments. Attendance is mandatory, and under normal circumstances meetings cannot be rescheduled. You may miss one meeting without penalty. Missing any additional tutorial meetings will reduce your tutorial grade by a full letter for each meeting missed. Semester tutorial grades will be calculated based upon your preparation for, commitment to, and conduct in the tutorial sessions.

Course Policies

Late and Incomplete Assignments: Assignments may not be submitted late without my prior permission. There is a penalty of 1/3 of a letter grade per 24 hours past the first missed deadline.

Attendance: Class attendance is required. If you miss more than one meeting, your course grade may be lowered by 1/3 of a letter grade per missed class. If you have a special obligation that will require you to miss several classes (e.g., varsity athletics, religious observances) please talk with me at the beginning of the semester to make special arrangements. If you have a serious illness and will be missing class, please let me know right away. Missed tutorial appointments will be counted as absences.

Participation: Attendance includes class participation: arriving on time, preparing and bringing assigned texts to class, offering thoughtful contributions to class discussions, listening carefully and responding to fellow students' contributions, candid participation in peer review sessions, and fulfillment of ancillary obligations such as completion of exercises, attendance at library orientations, tutorials, and so on. Please note that you must bring assigned texts to class in hard copy.

Tardiness: Regularly arriving late to class will be cause for grade penalties, if appropriate. If the problem persists, the student may be required to meet with Charles Dellheim, director of the KHC.

Office Hours & Contacting Me: Unless otherwise announced, I will hold office hours and tutorials in Mugar 406. I prefer that you contact me via _____. Put the course name and section in the subject line of the email.

Cellphones, Devices, and Laptop Usage

Friendly and fruitful classroom exchange is disrupted by the use of cell phones for any purpose in the classroom. So there is *no use of cell phones or other electronic devices*. You may use your laptops for taking notes during class, but not for reading e-mail or web surfing. Using your phone in class or email/web browsing on your computer counts against participation points.

Academic Conduct:

You are expected to abide by the Kilachand Honor Code at all times, including time spent in the Studio classroom. You are also expected to follow Boston University's Academic Conduct Code regarding "academic misconduct," which is "conduct by which a student misrepresents his or her academic accomplishments, or impedes other students' opportunities of being judged fairly for their academic work. Knowingly allowing others to represent your work as their own is as serious an offense as submitting another's work as your own." Examples include cheating on exams, falsifying data, theft of examinations, and plagiarism. Please review this code here: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

Boston University Libraries:

The Boston University Libraries offer a wealth of online and print resources and research support. Research Librarians can help you select a database or other search tool, or find books, journal articles, news and newspaper sources, government documents, data, and any other information you might need for your research. They can work with you to develop a research plan and organize your sources. The Research Center on the first floor of Mugar Memorial Library welcomes you for walk-in consultations with no appointment necessary. The Research Center is open Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Sunday 12:00 Noon to 8:00 pm. You can also make appointments for longer, in-depth consultations with one of the research librarians. Research appointments can be made at <http://www.bu.edu/common/request-an-appointment/>.

Mugar Memorial Library
771 Commonwealth Avenue
Phone: 617-353-2700/<http://www.bu.edu/library>

Calendar

Week 1 (9/9)

Introduction to Modernity and to Nietzsche
First Day Reading Exercise

Week 2 (9/16)

Read *Genealogy of Morals*, Preface and Essay 1; Response #1

Week 3 (9/23)

Read *Genealogy of Morals*, Essay 2; Response #2

Week 4 (9/30)

Read *Genealogy of Morals*, Essay 3

Week 5 (10/7)

Read, White, "Return of the Master: An Interpretation of Nietzsche's Genealogy of Morals"

Week 6 (10/14)

Read "Selections from Saussure's *Course in General Linguistics*."
Preview: Picasso, *Les Demoiselles*
Essay 1 Draft Due!

Week 7 (10/21)

Read *Mrs. Dalloway*, pp. 3-63
Response # 3

Week 8 (10/28)

Read, *Mrs. Dalloway*, pp. 63-124
Essay 1 Final Due

Week 9 (11-4)

Read, *Mrs. Dalloway*, pp. 63-190

Week 10 (11/11)

Review

Week 11 (11/18)

Read *Civilization and its Discontents*, Chapters 1-4
Response #4

Holiday Week (11/21-22) - No Class for Us

Two Day Week - Thanksgiving Recess begins 11/23, Wednesday

Week 12 (12/2)

Read *Civilization and its Discontents*, Chapters 5-8

Week 13 (12/9)

In-Class Final Reflection
Essay 2, Final Draft Due

Note: There is no final exam scheduled for this course.

Important Dates

September 6	Classes Begin
September 12	Official Registration Deadline for Standard Courses for Continuing, New, and Transfer Students (non-MET only)
September 19	Last Day to Add Standard Courses Official Registration Deadline for MET Students Last Day for Undergraduate Students to Change Standard Courses from Credit to Audit Status
October 10	Columbus Day, Classes Suspended
October 11	Substitute Monday Schedule of Classes
October 12	Last Day to Drop Standard Courses (without a "W" grade) Last Day for Graduate Students to Change Standard Courses from Credit to Audit Status
November 10	Last Day to Drop Standard Courses (with a "W" grade)
November 23 – 27	Thanksgiving Recess
November 28	Classes Resume
November 29	Last Day to Officially Take a Leave of Absence or Withdraw from the University
December 12	Last Day of Classes
December 13 – 15	Study Period
December 16	Final Exams Begin
December 21	Final Exams End