Time for Revolution:
Reading Time in the Twentieth Century

Module Convenor: Dr Caroline Edwards
Module Code: ENHU068S7
Module Level: MA (optional module)
Time: Thursdays 7:40-9pm, Spring Term 2014-15

This option will explore the ways in which theories of time affected the relationship between subjectivity and aesthetic production in the twentieth century. We will focus on technological change, the experience of modernization, and the disciplinary effects of labour practices on temporal experience and political subjectivity, to consider how newly reconfigured philosophies and theories of temporality affected both the form and themes of modernist and postmodernist literature, films and TV. In particular, we will focus on the political implications of various temporal regimes and the way in which historical uprisings or moments of crisis have been conceived throughout the twentieth century in temporal terms via conceptualisations of static time, linear time, chaos, contingency, messianic apertures and utopian rupture. Students will be encouraged to work in interdisciplinary ways asking questions of, and making connections between, a broad range of philosophical and aesthetic responses to one of the twentieth century’s most pressing ontological questions.

WEEK 1 | INTRODUCTION: TIME, POWER AND HISTORY

Karl Marx, from The Civil War in France (1871) (“The Paris Commune” and “The Fall of Paris”) [available on www.marxists.org: http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1871/civil-war-france/index.htm]

Selected Further Reading:
Dr Caroline Edwards, 2014-15 teaching document for Birkbeck, University of London
http://www.bbk.ac.uk/study/2014/postgraduate/programmes/TMACOLIT_C/


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**WEEK 2 | DURATION, RELATIVITY AND MODERNIST MOMENTS OF BEING**


Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* (1927)

**Selected Further Reading:**


Haffey, Kate, “Exquisite Moments and the Temporality of the Kiss in *Mrs Dalloway* and *The Hours,*” *Narrative,* Vol.18, No. 2 (2010): 137-162


**WEEK 3 | UTOPIA, MARXISM AND THE TIME OF THE MESSIAH**


**Selected Further Reading:**


**WEEK 4 | TIME, THE CITY AND MONEY**


*Metropolis* (Dir. Fritz Lang, 1926)

**Selected Further Reading:**


---, *One-Way Street* (London: Verso, 1979)


Minden, Michael and Holger Bachmann (eds), *Fritz Lang’s Metropolis: Cinematic Visions of Technology and Fear* (New York: Camden House, 2002)

Parsons, Deborah, *Streetwalking the Metropolis: Women, the City and Modernity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000)


WEEK 5 | TIME AND NARRATIVE THEORY


Paul Ricoeur, “The Fictive Experience of Time” in Time and Narrative, Volume 2, trans. Kathleen McLaughlin and David Pellauer (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1985), pp. 100-152 [particularly the sub-section on mortal time and monumental time in Mrs Dalloway]


Selected Further Reading:


Chambers, Ross, Story and Situation: Narrative Seduction and the Power of Fiction (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984)

Chatman, Seymour, Story and Discourse: Narrative Structure in Fiction and Film (Ithaka, New York: Cornell University Press, 1978)


Hirschkop, Ken and David Shepherd (eds), Bakhtin and Cultural Theory (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2001)


Steinby, Lissa and Tintti Klapuri (eds), Bakhtin and His Others: (Inter)subjectivity, Chronotope, Dialogism (London: Anthem Press, 2013)

**WEEK 6 | READING WEEK**

**WEEK 7 | IMAGINING THE FUTURE**


Selected Further Reading:

http://www.futurism.org.uk
Very comprehensive futurist site, with information on major and minor futurists and their activities, and an excellent display of their art.

**WEEK 8 | ALTERNATE TIMES AND COUNTER-HISTORIES**

“Episode 16: Peter” of the Second Season of *Fringe* (dir. David Straiton)

Selected Further Reading:
Connor, Steven, ‘The Impossibility of the Present: or, from the Contemporary to the Contemporal’, in *Literature and the Contemporary*, ed by Roger Luckhurst and Peter Marks (London: Longman, 1999)


Grazier, Kevin R. (ed), *Fringe Science: Parallel Universes, White Tulips, and Mad Scientists* (Dallas, Texas: Smart Pop, 2011)


Jameson, Fredric, “Progress Versus Utopia; or, Can We Imagine the Future?,” *Science Fiction Studies*, No. 9 (1982): 147-158


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**WEEK 9 | POSTMODERN TIMES AND SIMULTANEITY**


**Selected Further Reading:**


---, *Postmodern Narrative Theory* (New York: St Martin’s Press, 1998)


---, *A Poetics of Postmodernism* (London: Routledge, 1988)
Jameson, Fredric, *Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* (London: Verso, 1991)

**WEEK 10 | FEMINIST OTHER TIMES**


**Selected Further Reading:**


**WEEK 11 | TIME AND MEMORY**


**Selected Further Reading:**


---, *The Texture of Memory* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993)
SELECTED OTHER READING:

The best preparation for this course is to read David Couzens Hoy's *The Time of Our Lives: A Critical History of Temporality* and Stephen Kern’s *Culture of Time and Space*.


Bender, John and David E. Wellbery (eds), *Chronotypes: The Construction of Time* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1991)


DeRoo, Neal and John P. Manoussakis (eds), *Phenomenology and Eschatology: Not Yet in the Now* (Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate, 2009)


Lewis, Wyndham, *Time and Western Man* (London: Chatto and Windus, 1927)


Murphy, Patricia, *Time is of the Essence: Temporality, Gender and the New Woman* (New York: State University of New York Press, 2001)


