Course Syllabus

Introduction:

In 2012 Summer Session Track B HU 6010 will be a hybrid online/conventional course with one to three credits available. Below I have prepared a schedule of reading, viewing and writing assignments to begin on June 25, running for 7 weeks, and ending on August 8. Students who wish to take the course for one credit hour should participate in the first three weeks of the course, doing the readings, viewing the online videos and submitting the first three response essays (800-1,000 words). Students who are taking the course for three credit hours should participate for the full seven weeks, submitting five response essays and the final paper (3,000-4,000 words). I will schedule a series of meetings for face-to-face class discussions at times convenient to all participants.

Face to face meetings with the teacher are not required, but I will lead a discussion session for those of you who are on campus and wish to participate in an hour-long discussion at 11 am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Humanities Dept Graduate Seminar Room on the third floor of Walker Hall. However, during the week of July 2-6, I will be out of town attending a conference, so I will not hold the discussion sessions during that week.

Required Texts:

You'll need to acquire two books, The Portable Karl Marx, edited by Eugene Kamenka and Philip Smith's Cultural Theory: An Introduction, You can find these books at the Michigan Tech Bookstore, or from Amazon.com or other online booksellers. There will be other readings made available as online texts.

Course Schedule:

June 25: Historical Background on Culture and Modernity

Read: David Harvey, The Condition of Postmodernity, Chapter 2

View "Economic Conditions of Modernity"

View "Political Conditions of Modernity"

June 26: Historical Conditions of Modernity

View "The Individual and Society in Modernity"

View "Philosophical Paradigms of Modernity"

June 27: Historical Conditions of Modernity

Read: Philip Smith, Cultural Theory, pp 1-21
Read Raymond Williams, *Keywords*, pp. 87-93 on "Culture"

View "The Social Function of Art in Modernity"

View "The Concept of Culture in Modernity"

June 28 First Response Due: Post in "Discussions" by midnight June 30

July 3: Historical Materialism

Read Strickland, "Intro to Historical Materialism"; Marx, "Idealism and Materialism" from The German Ideology

View "Historical Materialism"

July 5: Base and Superstructure

Read Strickland, "Intro to Base and Superstructure"; Marx, "Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy" (Kamenka, pp 158-61); "Preface" from "The German Ideology" (Kamenka, pp 162-89); "Civil Society and the Conception of History" from "The German Ideology" (not re-printed in Kamenka)

View "Base and Superstructure"

July 6: Second Response Due: Post in "Discussions" by midnight, July 8

July 10: The Labor Theory of Value

Read Strickland, "The Labor Theory of Value and Commodity Fetishism"; Marx, from *Capital, Vol I, Ch. 6* and *Capital, Vol I, Ch. 7* (not reprinted in Kamenka)

View "The Labor Theory of Value"

July 11: The Commodity Form

Read Marx, *Capital, Vol I, Ch. 1 sec. 1, and Capital, Vol I, Ch. 1 sec 2* (see Kamenka, pp 437-61)

View "Commodity Fetishism"

July 12: Commodity Fetishism and Exchange Value

Read *Capital Vol I, Ch. 1 sec 3 and Capital, Vol I, Ch. 1 sec 4* (see Kamenka, pp 437-61)

July 13: Third Response Due: Post in "Discussions" by midnight, July 15

July 17: Frankfurt School Cultural Theory
Read Philip Smith, *Cultural Theory*, pp. 37-57; Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction";

Suggested further reading: Arato and Gebhardt, from *The Essential Frankfurt School Reader*; Horkheimer and Adorno, from *The Dialectic of Enlightenment*.

View "The Frankfurt School"

July 18: Ideology and State Apparatuses

Read Strickland, "Ideology and Subjectivity"; Marx, "On Private Property" from "The German Ideology"; Louis Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses".

View "Ideology and Subjectivity"

July 19: British Cultural Studies

Read Stuart Hall, "Cultural Studies: Two Paradigms"

View "British Cultural Studies"

July 20: Fourth Response Due: Post in "Discussions" by midnight, July 22

July 24: Materialist Feminism

Read Strickland, "Materialist Feminism"; Hennessy and Ingrams "Materialist Feminism"

View "Materialist Feminism"

Suggested Further Reading: Kuhn and Wolpe, "Feminism and Materialism"; Gimenez, "The Oppression of Women: A Structuralist Marxist View"; Stabile, "Feminism and Postmodernism"; Virginia Woolf, from "A Room of One's Own"; Simone de Beauvoir, from *The Second Sex*.

July 25: Post-Marxism

Read Laclau and Mouffe, *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy*, Ch 1 and Ch 2

July 26: Globalization

Read Strickland, "Modernism/Postmodernism"; Philip Smith, *Cultural Theory*, pp. 214-32; Fredric Jameson, "The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism"

Suggestions for Further Reading: David Harvey, from *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*.

July 27: Fifth Response Due: Post in "Discussions" by midnight, July 29
August 8: Final Essay Due