PHILOSOPHY & THE INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE
PHIL 3577H / Honors 3501H  Fall 2011  MF 2:00-3:15  ADM 312

Dr. Seth Holtzman
office: 308 Hedrick Administration Bldg  phone: 637-4229 office; 636-8626 home
hours:  T: 11-12 if no meeting, 12-1, 3-5;  W: 2-5;  Th: 3-5; & by appt.  email: sholtzma@catawba.edu

Course summary:

This course explores intellectual interconnections among the various disciplines and so among different bodies of knowledge. Our culture’s thought often seems a hodge-podge of unconnected or barely connected beliefs, areas of thought, values, theories, and compartmentalized disciplines. The thesis of our course is that a culture in fact has a unity and an integrity, produced and governed by very general intellectual commitments.

Why is it that modern mathematics and modern music have moved in such similar directions? Why do some of the same theories prove influential in art and science? Why have modern dance and modern architecture incorporated similar ideas? What philosophical concepts and principles are woven throughout the culture? There are fascinating questions, tantalizing connections, rarely the province of ordinary disciplinary study. Yet we can learn to engage in integrative thought, and it is extremely important to be able to think across disciplinary boundaries.

We will focus on our modern Western cultural landscape, mostly on the 20th century, in order to discover these integrating ideas. Some of these ideas govern only a limited range of knowledge and of disciplines; others govern a wider range. Yet others govern the entire culture, and we will find that these ideas are philosophical ones. We will learn something about the role of philosophy in the culture. And we will try our hand at searching for integrating ideas. This course tells one long intellectual story. Do not be misled by the disparate topics we will cover. You must keep in mind the story of the course as the semester goes on.

Class structure will include lecture, guided question-and-answer, and student presentation. There will also be slides, recorded and live music, film, and other means of presentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected learning outcome</th>
<th>Means of Assessment</th>
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<td>A successful student should demonstrate:</td>
<td>by successfully completing:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding of integrative thought</td>
<td>Essays, midterm, film essay, analytical paper, final exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness of ideas that integrate the culture</td>
<td>Essays, midterm, film essay, analytical paper, final exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness that there are philosophical ideas that integrate the entire culture</td>
<td>Midterm, final exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to connect abstract ideas</td>
<td>Essays, midterm, film essay, analytical paper, final exam</td>
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Requirements and grading:

1) Attendance is required; you cannot learn the course on your own. I will sometimes elicit your grasp of and response to the readings, lectures, and course. Your participation through questions and discussion is important, too. So, you need to be present, mentally active and prepared. Class participation can raise your final grade by up to 1/3 of a grade.

2) Short essays, usually half a page or a page long, listed in the schedule of readings. They help you grapple with the ideas and readings, often before we cover them, and will help me gauge how much you are understanding. You may work on readings with classmates; but for written assignments, separate and come to your own thoughts before any writing. Your lowest essay grade will not count. Late ones are not accepted; a missed one counts as "F". Together, they will count 20% of your grade.

3) A take-home essay midterm, testing your grasp of the readings, issues, and problems covered. Handed out on Friday, Oct 14th due at the start of class on Friday, Oct 21st. 15% of your grade
4. An out-of-class film (2 hours) that we watch as a group in November and discuss immediately afterwards. You will be graded on your oral contribution, including quality of insight, ability to connect ideas, ability to identify ideas in the film, as well as manner of oral presentation (clarity, use of reasons, audibility, critical but cooperative interaction with others, etc). Then you will write a 3 page essay about the film. 10% of your grade (5% on oral contribution; 5% on essay)

5. Using organized notes, you will give an oral presentation of at least 15 minutes to the class about some reading(s) that we will be doing; you and I will agree on which reading(s) for you to cover. It is your task to clarify for the class the ideas in the reading(s) and to point out their relevance to the overall course. Then you will motivate and lead a question-and-answer session. 10% of your grade

6. An 8-10 page analytical paper on a topic you and I agree on. You might want to build this paper out of one or more of the short writing assignments. I will meet with you both to help you plan and rewrite it. The draft is Friday, Nov 18th, to be returned to you by Monday, Nov. 28, with an optional rewrite due on the last day of class. Late papers will have their grades lowered. 20% of your grade

7. A comprehensive, essay, final exam testing your conceptual grasp of the course, not your memory of facts. Date: Friday, Dec. 9, 8:00-11:00am. Blue book required; write in pen. 25% of your grade.

NOTE: This 3000-level Honors course has less writing than it normally would--giving you more time to read.

Criteria for Evaluating Written Work:

**Content**
Writing should reflect a relevant understanding of the subject. It should make good use of the relevant concepts, distinctions, positions, & reasons included in course readings or brought out in lecture or discussion. It should be organized so ideas are arranged logically & clearly. Main points should be backed by substantial & relevant details. Your work should be backed by good reasons. Your claims & reasons should be consistent with each other. Anticipate and respond to any reasonable objections.

**Execution**
Writing should use precise words & well-constructed sentences that clearly represent the writer's reasoning. It should adhere to conventions of grammar, capitalization, spelling, & usage. Writing style should be appropriate to the academy. Your work should be clearly written, its claims precise, its structure clear, with an explicit overall direction. It should be intelligible to an interested student.

**Citations and Documentation**
When appropriate, writers must clearly differentiate their own material from source material. When writers use material that is not their own or not common knowledge, they must document the source of the information using a standardized (i.e., either MLA or APA) method.

Criteria for Evaluating Oral Presentation Communication Skill:

1. **Content:** Mastery of relevant subject matter
2. **Structure:** Clear and meaningful order within the assigned time frame
3. **Style:** Clear and appropriate; good use of language
4. **Delivery:** Speed; Diction; Volume; Expressions; Eye Contact

Criteria for Evaluating Discussion Facilitation Communication Skill:

1. **Interest in the Material:** Leader should be enthusiastic about the subject matter
2. **Knowledge of Material and Resources:** Leader should understand material & resources well enough to prompt class with meaningful discussion questions.
3. **Discussion Structure:** Discussion should proceed on topic in organized fashion.
4. **Involvement:** Leader should encourage & value participation from everyone.
5. **Time Management:** Discussion should stay within allotted time & neither rush nor drag.
6. **Clarity of Speech:** Speech should be clear and intelligible.
### Grading:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
<th>Maximum Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+ Superior mastery</td>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Good mastery</td>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B Good mastery</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td>C Good mastery</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td>D Good mastery</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Unsatisfactory achievement</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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A+ is not a possible final course grade. Grades can & should measure achievement only.

### Texts:

1) A coursepack of readings.

### Reading, taking notes, and homework:

There is much reading in this course. I expect you to do all of it; to do well in the course you will need to. Some material is easy and so accessible on your first attempt. Other assignments are quite taxing and will probably require multiple readings.

Lectures will sometimes track the readings but also range far afield. Come to class having done the readings. You will be responsible for all of it, and the final exam will be frightening if you have not read it all. Since lectures can cover material not in the readings, this is another reason to attend each class.

You cannot get by with noting only key terms and definitions. Your notes are an invaluable resource for understanding the course and for the final exam. This course focuses on understanding concepts and ideas, not on memorizing facts; your notes should reflect that. Take as many notes as you can, without losing too much of what is said.

### Absences and violations:

I check attendance at the start of class. If late, you might be counted absent; if late enough, you are absent. Sleeping and other forms of mental disconnect count as an absence. When absent, you are responsible for missed assignments and classroom material. Get notes from a classmate. If you still have questions, you may contact me.

No absences are excused. After 2 penalty-free absences, further absences lower your final grade: 3-4 total = -1/3 grade, 5-6 total = -2/3 grade, 7 total = -1 grade. Over 7 absences (if no emergency) is grounds for an "F" (or maybe "I"), regardless of your grades. Missing class just before/after vacation counts double.

Respect the people and ideas in our class. It is usually illegitimate to attack a person; you may challenge the person's ideas. I don't care if you bring a drink, sport a hat, or wear rags. I care that you pay attention to me and others (no cell phones or activated pagers/beepers), that you are on time and ready to work, that you have a positive attitude, and that you make a positive contribution to the class.

Cheating, working with another student to complete individual assignments (unless specifically allowed), as well as falsifying an emergency to skip class or an assignment, all violate the Honor Code. So does plagiarism, employing a writer's ideas (and even words) without giving the writer due credit. See me if you have any question about borrowing someone's ideas or words for your use. No electronic devices are allowed during an exam, except for simple watches, computers (if specifically allowed), and any needed medical devices. Specifically, cell phones and any devices that allow for texting are prohibited. Violation of this policy can result in an "F" for that exam.
Schedule of Readings

Fri Aug 19  SYLLABUS; INTRODUCTION

Mon Aug 22  ORGANIZING & GOVERNING IDEAS; LEVELS; SYNTHESIS
1) quote by Werner Heisenberg
2) Preface; "Introduction: The Evolution of Chaos", Chaos Bound, by N. Katherine Haynes, pp.xi--iii, 1--4
3) "Philosophy and the Integration of Knowledge" by Seth Holtzman
4) "The Revolution in Western Thought", Beyond the Post-Modern Mind, by Huston Smith, pp.3--15
5) Fiero, chapter 1: Origins
   Essay #1: What, for Smith, separates the Post-Modern and Modern mind?

Fri Aug 26  PHILOSOPHY: PRE-MODERN VERSUS MODERN
6) "The Vision of the Modern Age", The End of the Modern Age, by Allen Wheelis, pp.3--25
8) "Is the Modern Western Mind Deranged?", Philosophy and the Modern Mind, E.M. Adams, pp.48--55
9) Summary Theses of pre-modern and modern world views, by E. M. Adams, pp.1--2
   Essay #2: Both Adams and Wheelis note ideas, values and concepts that define the modern West. Briefly present and discuss some.

Mon Aug 29  COMMONSENSE AND MODERN MECHANISTIC SCIENCE
10) Fiero, chapter 2: Classicism and chapter 3: Empire
11) "Modern Science: The First Four Hundred Years", The Wholeness Principle, by Anna Lemkow, pp.57--64

Fri Sept 2  BREAKDOWN OF MECHANISTIC SCIENCE (1800-1905)
13) Fiero, chapter 4: Revelation and chapter 5: Synthesis
14) "Modern Science: The First 400 Years", & "The Theory of Relativity", The Wholeness Principle, by Anna Lemkow, pp. 65--6, 73--7
15) "Space-Time", The Tao of Physics, by Fritjof Capra, pp.161--71
16) "The Lay Reaction: 'A Mystic Universe'", Relativity Theory, ed. L. Pearce Williams
   Essay #3: What ordinary beliefs does Einstein's theory of special relativity challenge?

Mon Sept 5  VACATION

Tues Sept 6 11:00-11:30  "AN ANDALUSIAN DOG"
17) Kern, chapter 1: pp. 10 -- 35
Thur Sept 8 11:00-11:30  MAKING CONNECTIONS: A FIRST ATTEMPT


Essay #4: What connections in ideas can you make between the film and modern science?

Fri Sept 9  MUSIC (up to 1800)

19) "The Art of Listening"
20) "Some Remarks on Value and Greatness in Music", Music, the Arts, and Ideas: Patterns and Predictions in 20th Century Culture, by Leonard B. Meyer, pp.22—41

Mon Sept 12  MUSIC (up to 1800) continued

21) Fiero, chapter 6: Christendom
22) "Twentieth-Century Music and the Past", Twentieth--Century Music: An Introduction, by Eric Salzman, pp.1--6

Essay #5: What does Meyer contend confers value in music?

Fri Sept 16  VISUAL ART (up to the mid-1800s)

24) Kern, Preface, and Introduction
25) Stevens, "Goya's 3rd of May"

Mon Sept 19  LITERATURE (up to 1900)

26) Kern, chapter 2: pp. 36 -- 64
27) Selected poetry: Donne, Blake, Arnold
28) "The Broken Center: A Definition of the Crisis of Values in Modern Literature", by Nathan A. Scott, pp. 178-200
29) "On the Teaching of Modern Literature", Beyond Culture, by Lionel Trilling, pp.3--27

Essay #6: In what ways do we first see modernity influence literature? Consider form (both of the whole work and inside the work), tone, and content.

Fri Sept 23  ARCHITECTURE AND CITY PLANNING (up to 1900)

30) Fiero, chapter 7: Rebirth and chapter 8: Reform

Mon Sept 26  POLITICAL THOUGHT IN THE MODERN ERA

32) The Idea of Man, by Floyd W. Matson, pp.148--53
33) "The Philosophical Grounds of the Present Crisis of Authority", by E. M. Adams, pp.3-24

Essay #7 Discuss the influence of modernity on political thought. Which assumptions and forms did
modernity overturn or transform?

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**Fri Sept 30**  
**DANCE (up to 1900)**

34) Fiero, chapter 9: Encounter and chapter 10: Baroque  
35) Dancing, by Gerald Jonas, pp.72--81, 108--26, 128--35, 150--74, 182--9

**Mon Oct 3**  
**MODERN SCIENCE (1905 -- 1940)**

36) "Modern Physics", The Wholeness Principle, by Anna Lemkow, pp. 67--73  
37) Newtonian vs. quantum physics; "Patterns of Organic Energy"; "My Way"; The Dancing Wu Li Masters, by Gary Zukav, p.41, 48-66, 96-114  
38) "Space-Time", The Tao of Physics, by Fritjof Capra, pp. 173--87  
39) Kern, Chapter 5: pp. 109 -- 130

**Essay #8:** What characteristically modern ideas emerge from early twentieth-century science?

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**Fri Oct 7**  
**RELIGION IN THE MODERN ERA**

40) Fiero, chapter 11: Enlightenment  
41) "The Threat to Orthodoxy", A Layman's Guide to Protestant Theology, by William Hordern, pp.44-63, 111-4  
42) "Man Against Darkness" by W. T. Stace, pp.65--75  
43) "A Setting for Radical Theology", The Death of God Controversy, by Thomas W. Ogletree, pp.11--25

**Essay #9:** What essential feature of the Enlightenment shapes the modern response to religion?

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**Mon Oct 10**  
**VISUAL ART (1850 -- 1950)**

44) Twentieth Century Painting, by H. L. C. Jaffe, pp.1--6  
45) Ideas", Arts and Ideas, by William Fleming, pp.401--2  
46) "The Mechanical Paradise", The Shock of the New, by Robert Hughes, p.18  
47) "The New Art of the Twentieth Century", Twentieth Century Painting, by H. L. C. Jaffe, pp.9--19  
48) "Expressionism and Abstractionism", Arts and Ideas, by William Fleming, pp.409--10  
49) "Unpopularity of the New Art", The Dehumanization of Art, by Jose Ortega Y Gasset  
51) Art and Anarchy by Edgar Wind, pp.8--11  
52) quotes about art and modern art  
53) Kern, Chapter 6: pp. 131 -- 180

**Essay #10:** In #44 & 47 how do various painters or styles respond to the question of the “essence of reality”?  
What’s being questioned? Why speak of a “will to form”? Why is form in art now a matter of will?

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**Fri Oct 14**  
**MUSIC (1800 -- 1925)**
Mon Oct 17   FALL BREAK VACATION

Thur Oct 20  11:00-11:50   MUSIC (1800 -- 1925) continued

55) Introduction to Contemporary Music, by Joseph Machlis, pp.6--11, 17--21, 23--31, 34--9, 41--6, 50--2, 54--9, 63--7

Essay #11: What are the formal conventions of the system of tonality? What factors (both within it and outside of it) lead to its own destruction? 
(Don't forget Meyer's account of value in music.)

Fri Oct 21   DANCE (1900 to 2000)

59) "Modern Dance: The Voice of the Individual", Dancing, by Ellen Jacob, pp.124—37

Essay #12: How does the development of dance illustrate the influence of modernity?

Mon Oct 24  SOCIAL THOUGHT

60) Kern, Chapter 4: pp. 89 -- 108
61) Fiero, chapter 13: Materialism
62) The Discovery of France, by Graham Robb, pp. 28-31
64) Small is Beautiful, by E. F. Schumacher, pp. 1-52
65) "Flakes of Fire, Handfuls of Light", Beyond the Post-Modern Mind, by Huston Smith, pp.92--5

Essay #13: What is the feel of modern life from within? What are some of its problems? Why are some cultural critics so disturbed by what they find?

Fri Oct 28   MATH: THE UNDERMINING OF THE FOUNDATIONS

67) Introduction and Chapter 1, A Beginner’s Guide to Constructing the Universe, by Michael S. Schneider
68) excerpts from 20th-century Mathematics website
69) Godel, Escher, Bach, by Douglas Hofstadter, pp.10--24
70) Chaos: Making of a New Science, by James Gleick, pp.83--110
**LITERATURE (1900 -- 1940)**

71) Fiero, chapter 14: Modernism
72) "Introduction", Space, Time, and Structure in the Modern Novel, by Sharon Spencer, pp.iii—xx
73) "Ulysses: A Monologue", in The Spirit in Man, Art, and Literature, by C.G. Jung, pp.109-54
74) "Introduction: The absurdity of the Absurd", The Theatre of the Absurd, by Martin Esslin, pp.19--28
75) excerpts from "The Bald Soprano" by Eugene Ionesco, pp.14-23, 37-42
76) Kern, Chapter 5: pp. 65 -- 88
77) #4, 35, 38, 73, 74 by e.e. cummings
78) "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird"; and "The Man with the Blue Guitar", by Wallace Stevens

**Essay #14:** How does 20th-century literature reveal the influence of modernity?

**ARCHITECTURE AND CITY PLANNING (1900 -- 2000)**


**Essay #15:** What are some ways in which architecture has changed in response to modernity?

**MODERN SCIENCE (1940 -- 2000)**

81) Fiero, chapter 15: Globalism
82) "Forward", "Bell's Theorem", "The Holoverse", Space, Time & Medicine by Larry Dossey, M.D., pp.viii--xi, 98--114
83) "Emptiness and Form", The Tao of Physics, by Fritjof Capra, pp.209--23
84) Chaos: Making of a New Science, by James Gleick, pp.3--31, 50, 139--41, 71, 74--5
85) Preface, Introduction, and Chapter 1, The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales, by Oliver Sacks, pp.vii--ix, 3--22
86) Disappearing Through the Skylight, by O.B. Hardison, Jr., pp.52-3

**Essay #16:** What ideas in contemporary science have challenged our understanding of nature?

**VISUAL ART (1950 -- 2000)**

87) "Culture as Nature", The Shock of the New, by Robert Hughes, pp.334, 342, 344
88) opinion piece by George Will
89) "Contemporary Art & the Plight of Its Public", The New Art, by Leo Steinberg, pp.205--26
90) Kern, Chapter 7: pp. 181 -- 210

**Essay #17:** How does Kern's discussion of the “breakdown of old forms” apply to contemporary art?

**VISUAL ART (1950 -- 2000) continued**

91) Kern, Conclusion: pp. 313 -- 318

**PSYCHOLOGY: FRAGMENTED, IRRATIONAL, INACCESSIBLE**
Essay #18: What has happened to the self in modernity, and why?

Mon Nov 21       MUSIC (1925 -- 2000)

95) "The End of the Renaissance", Music, the Arts, & Ideas, by Leonard Meyer, pp.68--84
97) John Cage description and quotes
98) Letters: Charles Berry and John Cage
99) "John Cage and the Art of Noise"
100) "White Sound, White Language", Disappearing Through the Skylight, by O.B. Hardison, Jr., pp.244--47
101) "John Cage and the Aesthetic of Non--Intention" by James Hepokoski, pp.1--9
102) "Philosophy in 4'33"" by Daniel Herwitz, pp.1--9
103) "Opening the Cage: 14 variations on 14 words" by Edwin Morgan

Tues Nov 22 11:00-11:50       MUSIC (1925 -- 2000) continued

104) "Anti-Rationality and Aleatory", Twentieth-Century Music, by Eric Salzman, pp.159—64

Essay #19: How does 20th-century music so profoundly embody ideas that are characteristically modern?

Fri Nov 25       THANKSGIVING VACATION

Mon Nov 28       LITERATURE (1940 -- 2000)

105) Borges: The Labyrinth Maker by Ana Maria Barrenechea, pp.15--6
106) "Borges and I"
107) "Continuity of Parks" by Julio Cortazar
108) "introduction", Anti-Story, ed. Philip Stevick, pp.ix--xxiii
109) "High Windows" by Philip Larkin
110) "How Everything Happens" by May Swenson
111) "do you remember" by Emmett Williams
112) "In the Corridors of the Underground: The Escalator", by Alain Robbes-Grillet, pp.263--6
113) "The Glass Mountain" by Donald Barthelme

Essay #20: Why do these short stories challenge so deeply? What is modern about them?

Fri Dec 2       PHILOSOPHY: REJECTION OF REASON; DISSOLUTION
Essay #21: Why is “truth in trouble”? What are the implications for our civilization and our lives?

Exam:

Final(ly)

Friday is the cruelest day,

\[ \text{December} \]

\[ 9, \ 9, \ 9, \ \text{IX, ninth...} \]
Title: “It’s exam time, dada”

Artist: anonymous, 21st century

“A typical example of a dadaist poster, perhaps showing the influence of Man Ray. Compare this work with the one in this exhibition on the far wall. Some critics doubt the authenticity of this work, noting that this replica of a poster was first discovered on the back page of a recent .........”