The Twentieth Century and After: 1945-2016
An Interdisciplinary Introduction

Humanities 515 A, B, D
Spring 2016

Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays, and some Fridays, 11:10 to 12,
in PCAC A 218
Sections: most Fridays, 11:10 to 12 in various rooms

All students must enroll in one of the three sections and attend its meetings.

Section 515A: Professor Trevor Verrot. Meets in PCAC A204 and satisfies the
Discovery category in Fine and Performing Arts.
Section 515B: Professor Michael Ferber. Meets in Kendall 310 and satisfies the
Discovery category in World Culture
Section 515D: Professor Val Dusek. Meets in Nesmith 310 and satisfies the Discovery
category in Humanities.

Half the grade for this course will depend on the three tests (given in the lecture room)
and half will depend on the work assigned in section (e.g., papers, quizzes, regular attendance,
participation, etc., as the professor chooses).

Books (available at Durham Book Exchange)

Samuel Beckett, Endgame (1957)
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude (1967)

Additional readings will be made available through on-line links.

The following is a schedule of topics. Specific reading assignments will be given in class and on
Blackboard.

Schedule
Wed 27 Jan  Introduction (MF)

Part One: Post-War

Fri 29 Jan  World War Two and the Atomic Bomb (VD)

Mon 1 Feb  World War Two and the Atomic Bomb (VD)
           Read Heinar Kipphardt, *In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer*
           (copies on reserve in the library)

Wed 3 Feb  Abstract Expressionism (TV)

Fri 5 Feb  Section

Mon 8 Feb  Abstract Expressionism (TV)

Wed 10 Feb  Existentialism (VD)

Fri 12 Feb  Section

Mon 15 Feb  Beyond Existentialism (MF)
           Read Samuel Beckett, *Endgame*

Wed 17 Feb  The Beatniks and their Poetry (MF)
           Read “Beat Generation and California Poetry” (on Blackboard)

Fri 19 Feb  Section

Mon 22 Feb  Inauthenticity and the Banality of Evil (VD)
           Hannah Arendt on Eichmann

Wed 24 Feb  Inauthenticity and the Banality of Evil (VD)

Fri 26 Feb  Test 1

Part Two: Systems and Economies

Mon 29 Feb  Modernism in Architecture
           Mies van der Rohe (TV)

Wed 2 Mar  Alan Turing and the Computer (VD)

Fri 4 Mar  The Computer Revolution (VD)
Mon 7 Mar       Chomsky’s Linguistic Revolution (MF)
                 Read John Searle, “Chomsky’s Revolution in Linguistics” (on
                 Blackboard)

Wed 9 Mar       Chomsky’s Linguistic Revolution (MF)

Fri 11 Mar      Section

**Spring Break**

Mon 21 Mar      Pop Art (TV)

Wed 23 Mar      Pop Art (TV)

Fri 25 Mar      Section

Mon 28 Mar      Eastern European Poetry (MF)
                 Read “Eastern European Poetry” (on Blackboard)

Wed 30 Mar      Eastern European Poetry (MF)

Fri 1 Apr       Section

Mon 4 Apr       Feminism’s Second Wave (VD)

Wed 6 Apr       The Art of the Body (TV)

Fri 8 Apr       **Test 2**

**Part Three: From Magic Realism to Virtual Reality**

Mon 11 Apr      Magic Realism (MF)
                 Read Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

Wed 13 Apr      Magic Realism (MF)

Fri 15 Apr      Section

Mon 18 Apr      Postmodern Architecture and Art (TV)

Wed 20 Apr      Postmodern Architecture and Art (TV)

Fri 22 Apr      Section

Mon 25 Apr      Postmodernism in Philosophy (VD)
Wed 27 Apr  Postmodernism in Philosophy (VD)
Fri 29 Apr  Section
Mon 2 May  Monuments and Memorials (TV)
Wed 4 May  Art, Technology, and Virtuality (TV)
Fri 6 May  Section
Mon 9 May  Review Session

Fri 13 May 10:30-12:30  **Test 3**

Any student who feels he or she may need personal accommodation because of a disability should discuss it privately with one of the professors; we will do what we can to help you. Please also contact the Office for Disability Services for Students in room 118 of the Memorial Union Building (862-2607).

All students should be sure they understand the University Academic Honesty policy, described on pp. 21-23 of *Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities*. 