



## AL 892: The Sublime and the Non-Representable Summer 2010, Michigan State University Dr. Christian Lotz

Tentative Schedule (last **UPDATE**: July 02, 2010)

NUMBER	DATE	TOPIC	READING	PROTOCOL	PRESENTATION	ASSIGNMENTS
1	May 7, 530 South Kedzie Hall	Introduction				
<b>Preparation</b>						
	June 7	Kant (sections 23-29)				Response Paper due
	June 21	Didi-Huberman				Response Paper due
<b>The Sublime</b>						
2	June 28	The Psychological Sublime	Burke, A philosophical enquiry into the sublime and the beautiful, part I.7, part II, part III.27; part IV.1-16, part V.1-5		Hannah	
3	June 29	Aesthetics, Reason, and the Sublime	Kant, Critique of Judgment, sections 1-29, 49			
4	June 30	Aesthetics, Reason, and the Sublime	Kant, Critique of Judgment, sections 23-29, 49 --- Nancy, Sublime Offering	Caitlin		
5	July 1	The Sublime in Modern Art	Lyotard, The Inhuman, pp. 78-143 + Ranciere, Lyotard and the Aesthetics of the Sublime			
6	July 2	Feminsim and the Sublime	Battersby, The Sublime, Terror, and Human Difference (selections, pdf) + Freeman, the Feminine Sublime (selections, pdf) + Battersby, Sublime and Terror after 2001, selections (pdf)	Kate	Kate	

**From the Sublime to the Non-Representable**

July

7	5	Holiday	Holiday		
8	July 6, 2pm	Being and Death	Derrida, Aporias, section 2, pp. 43-82; Heidegger, selections from Being and Time on death	Hannah	Caitlin
9	July 7, TBA	Being and the Unsayable	Derrida, How to avoid Speaking?	Michael	Michael

**From the Non-Representable to the Ethics of Representation**

10	July 8, 1pm	Ethics, Auschwitz and the Unrepresentable	Didi-Huberman, Images in Spite of All: Four Photographs from Auschwitz + Claude Lanzmann, Shoah (film) + Lanzmann, interviews (pdf)	Dan	Dan (Didi-Huberman)
11	July 9, 2pm	Ethics, Auschwitz and the Unrepresentable (in Photography)	Didi-Huberman, Images in Spite of All: Four Photographs from Auschwitz --- Ranciere, The Ethical Turn of Aesthetics and Politics + Ranciere, The Intolerable Image + Ranciere, Are some things unrepresentable? + Nancy, Forbidden Representation		

**Weekend Seminar**

	August 21				Research Paper + abstract due
12-13	Saturday, August 28	Seminar Presentations 10am-12pm + 1pm-5pm			

**Class Meetings:**

Days: Special schedule  
 Time: First week: 5 PM - 8 PM - second week: 2 PM - 5 PM  
 Place: 530 South Kedzie Hall

**Office:**

Phone: 517.355.4490 [dept.]  
 Place: 501 S. Kedzie Hall (part of room 503, front office)  
 Hours: TBA

**Other Contact:**

E-mail: [lotz@msu.edu](mailto:lotz@msu.edu)  
 Home Phone: please ask  
 Webpage: <http://christianlotz.wordpress.com>

**Box**

You will find my box in the front office of the philosophy department (and in front of my office)

**Teaching Assistant:** no teaching assistants

**Course Description**

In this interdisciplinary class, which is open to all graduate students in the College, we will discuss the concept of the sublime and the non-representable. Triggered by Lyotard's interpretation of Kant's aesthetics, the sublime became one of the most central concepts in recent European philosophy, cultural theory, and visual studies. We will ask questions such as What is sublimity and how does it function in aesthetical discourses (Ranciere)? What is the relation between the sublime and politics, especially terror and Auschwitz? Is there something that cannot be thought, but nevertheless determines thinking (Adorno/Heidegger)? Is otherness beyond representation (Levinas)? What is the relation between intentionality and death (Derrida)? Is there an ethics of the unrepresentable (for example, in literature and photography) (Didi-Huberman)? Is traumatic experience representable? Finally, how is the sublime related to feminist theorizing? (Battersby) We will be discussing selected authors, such as Kant, Burke, Adorno, Lyotard, Lacoue-Labarthe, Battersby, Levinas, Derrida, Marion, Didi-Huberman, Ranciere, and Heidegger. Flexible schedule: We

will meet once at the end of Spring 10 for an introduction, we will then meet on a daily basis between the two summer sessions (end of June/beginning of July), and, finally, we will meet for a weekend seminar at the end of the summer semester (end of August). In addition, there will be email-exchanges in May/June. Note: Students who teach during the first summer session as well as students who teach during the second summer session should be able to take this seminar !!

### **Course Goals**

It is hoped for that at the end of the class participants will be able to understand the most important approaches to the phenomenon of the sublime and the concept of the non-representable in recent debates in philosophy, cultural theory, and aesthetics.

### **Required Texts**

- Kant, CoJ
- Burke, A philosophical enquiry into the sublime and the beautiful
- Lyotard, The Inhuman
- Didi-Huberman, 4 photographs from Auschwitz
- Essays by Nancy, Ranciere, Lyotard, Heidegger, and Adorno per pdf/email
- Not required, but helpful: Lyotard, Lessons on the Analytic of the Sublime

### **Course Requirements**

- 2 response papers
- 1 presentation
- 1 protocol
- 1 weekend seminar presentation
- 1 research paper (conference style)

### **Protocol (German tradition)**

The class protocol should cover our discussion in class. Protocols should have a length of 3 pages (around 900 words), and they will in and outside of the classroom force us to have an ongoing reflection on our texts that we study for class. They can also include problems or questions that the writers had either with our class discussion or with the texts itself, but above all protocols should cover what I lectured about in class and what we discussed afterwards. Protocols should clarify and discuss selected issues in question. Protocols have to be sent out to other students by noon the day following the class. I'll radically mark down late turn ins. The student who wrote the protocol will address questions during the first 20 minutes of the next class meeting, and he/she will lead the class discussion.

### **Presentation**

One student will be responsible for selected classes and work out an introductory presentation, which should function as a platform for our discussions. Length of presentations: up to 45 minutes. Each presenter must schedule an appointment with me in June for a brief discussion of the presentation. In addition, each presenter must two days before class send around a selection of pages that have to be re-read by every participant.

### **General Remark**

Given that this is a graduate seminar, I expect self-motivation, autonomy, as well as self-responsibility. The attendance requires the willingness to intensively study the text selected for class.

### **Class Paper (conference style)**

The class essay should be well researched and should present a substantial reflection on some parts of the material discussed in class. I expect excellent papers in regard to research, form, and content. I will fail papers that do not comply with formal standards (footnotes, literature, etc.)

### **Response Paper**

Every student will write response papers about selected readings. Response paper should lay out how each author reflects on the main concepts discussed in the texts. Response Papers should be accompanied by one extra page with (critical) questions about the readings, which will be used for our discussions.

### **Weekend Seminar**

Every student will present his/her final paper (10 pages, 3000 words), which will be followed by a 30 minute discussion of each paper.

## Course Evaluation

You will be evaluated on the basis of:

2 response papers, 900-1200 words	10 points
1 class presentation	10 points
1 protocol	10 points (pass/fail)
1 research paper, 3000-4500 words, conference paper style	60 points
1 weekend seminar presentation+discussion	10 points
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	100 points

## Grading:

4.0 (=A)	100 - 93
3.5	92 - 87
3 (=B)	86 - 82
2.5	81 - 77
2 (=C)	76 - 72
1.5	71 - 65
1.0 (=D)	64 - 60
0.0	< 60

## GENERIC SYLLABUS (might not be applicable to each class)

### Class Attendance

As mentioned above, I do not employ in my classes a class attendance policy. Having said this, you should be aware that class attendance is very important. When engaging in a philosophical and humanistic dialogue it is necessary to be an active and present participant in the ongoing discussion. If you miss class please do not email me asking if you missed anything important. Every class is important. You should get a study buddy for the class; a student in class who will inform you of what you missed. If you miss a class you can come to my office hours or make an appointment to discuss the material, providing you have read the material and you simply want to see if your understanding of the material is on target. Time in office hours will not be used to repeat the class lectures.

### Grading Criteria

Check out [this page for grading criteria, example of assignments, etc.](#)

### Helpful information about oral presentations, paper writing and plagiarism

[Click here to find help on your presentations and your writing](#)

### Online Research Sources

Unfortunately, some people think that the internet as such is a reliable source of information. If you decide to use online sources for additional information or your paper then do not just use one of the common internet search engines, such as Google; rather, use reliable academic sources, such as Britannica Online, or the [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#). The [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) isn't very good, but still acceptable. Check out MSU's [library resources](#)! And, as with other sources, you must cite any online sources to which you refer in your essay.

### Writing Center Information

MSU's writing center offers excellent help on all matters regarding writing and learning. Check the website at <http://writing.msu.edu> for an overview and hours. For more information, please call 517.432.3610 or send an e-mail to [writing@msu.edu](mailto:writing@msu.edu).

### **Integrity of Scholarship and Grades (Plagiarism)**

The following statement of University policy addresses principles and procedures to be used in instances of academic dishonesty, violations of professional standards, and falsification of academic or admission records, herein after referred to as academic misconduct. [See General Student Regulation 1.00, Protection of Scholarship and Grades.]: [download document](#) (pdf)

### **Academic Honesty**

Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the (insert name of unit offering course) adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu)) Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including but not limited to a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html>)

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to establish reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor, call 353-9642 (voice) or 355-1293 (TTY)

### **Drops and Adds**

The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is (see Academic Calendar). The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is (see Academic Calendar). You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

### **Note on Attendance**

Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.

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