



BABEL

Carleton University
Department of English
Graduate Reading Group in
Literary and Cultural Theory

Schedule of Readings
Fall/Winter 2012-13

Objects, Affects & Aesthetics

Friday, Sept. 21 (5:30-7:00)

Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"

Susan Buck-Morss, "Aesthetics and Anaesthetics: Walter Benjamin's Artwork Essay Reconsidered"

Friday, Oct. 12 (5:30-7:00)

Jane Bennett, from *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things* (Preface, Chapter 1: "The Force of Things" and Chapter 2: "The Agency of Assemblages")

Friday, Nov. 2 (5:30-7:00)

Sarah Ahmed, "Happy Objects"

Brian Massumi, "The Future Birth of the Affective Fact: The Political Ontology of Threat"

Friday, Nov. 16 (5:30-7:00)

Jacques Rancière, from *Aesthetics and Its Discontents* ("Aesthetics as Politics" and "The Ethical Turn of Aesthetics and Politics")

Posthumanism & Utopia

Friday, Jan. 18 (4:30-6:00)

Herbert Marcuse, from *Eros and Civilization* ("The Dialectic of Civilization," "The Historical Limits of the Established Reality Principle," "Phantasy and Utopia," and "The Images of Orpheus and Narcissus")

Friday, Feb. 1 (4:30-6:00)

Cary Wolfe, from *What is Posthumanism?* ("Animal Studies, 'Disciplinary,' and the (Post)Humanities" and "Learning from Temple Grandin: Animal Studies, Disability Studies, and Who Comes After the Subject")

Friday, Feb. 15 (4:30-6:00)

Slavoj Žižek, from *Living in the End Times* ("Denial: The Liberal Utopia")

Friday, Mar. 1 (4:30-6:00)

Fredric Jameson, from *Valences of the Dialectic* ("Utopia as Replication")

Please join us for a lively discussion of classic and contemporary trends in theory in a warm, relaxed atmosphere. All are welcome. Meetings are held in the Gordon Wood Lounge, 1811 Dunton Tower. For more information, contact Prof. Brian Johnson <brian_johnson@carleton.ca>.