June 4, 2014

Addendum to APEA Course Schedule

Please note the following two changes to the APEA course listing:

(1) The topic for section F of Interpretation and Argument (76-101) has changed from “Is Technology Overrated?” to “Resistance in Subcultures”:

Section F – Resistance in Subcultures

Only three years after the Sex Pistols emerged as representatives of a new social movement known as “punk rock,” the British group Crass had already declared that “Punk [was] Dead” by comparing it to other pop culture trends emerging at the time. Yet, since this declaration, the label of “punk” has been used to refer to anything from underground musical styles, fashions, and even attitudes, to social groups and political movements.

This course will use punk as a lens to discuss the dynamic relationship between popular or “mainstream” culture and individual or “resistant” subcultures. For example, what makes something mainstream, and why or how would an “alternative” or “sub”-culture wish to resist the mainstream? For that matter, can subcultures effectively remain “resistant” once they are incorporated into mainstream or mass culture? Additionally, in what ways do subcultures respond to and represent race, gender, and class in opposition to the "social" dominance of the mainstream?

This course will draw from cultural theory to define concepts of mass or “dominant” culture and subcultures. We will explore the history, influence, and controversies of punk and other subcultures through text, figures, music, and film (for example: figures like Kathleen Hanna – a feminist icon of riot grrrl punk and *Punk Attitude*, a film that concentrates on the use of style in various “scenes” of the punk movement.). Using methods of critical reading and academic writing, students will engage responsibly with the controversial topic of cultural resistance and discuss how effective that resistance can be. Students will analyze arguments as part of an overall conversation of alternative or subcultural practices, synthesize perspectives on central issues within that topic, and finally contribute to the overall discussion, considering to what extent and why alternative or subcultures can or would wish to resist mainstream or mass culture.

The time for section F remains the same (1:30pm-2:50pm). Also, the topic and time for section E, “Urban Design: The Evolution of a City,” remain the same (3:00pm-4:20pm).
While the topic for Global Histories (79-104) remains “The History of Capitalism,” the course description has changed slightly:

**79-104 Global Histories** (9 units)

Human activity transcends political, geographical, and cultural boundaries. From wars to social movements, immigration to environmental change, our world has long been globalized. Acquiring the ability to understand such transnational and even global processes is an indispensable part of any college education. This course provides students with an opportunity to develop the skills and perspectives needed to understand the contemporary world through investigating its global history. A variety of sections are offered in order to give students the opportunity to choose between different themes and approaches. All sections are comparable in their composition of lectures and recitations, required amounts of reading, and emphasis on written assignments as the central medium of assessment. The sections all aim to help students: (1) master knowledge through interaction with the instructors, reading material, and other students, (2) think critically about the context and purpose of any given information, (3) craft effective verbal and written arguments by combining evidence, logic, and creativity, and (4) appreciate the relevance of the past in the present and future. 80-minute daily session.

**Section E – The History of Capitalism**

Capitalism is of unparalleled importance for understanding the world and its history, as the predominant form of social and political as well as economic organization. No one alive in the world today remains unaffected by capitalism. But what exactly is capitalism? Where did it come from? How and why did it exert influence over industry, wars, revolutions and even sex? This course examines the long, violent, and often surprising story of capitalism, from its origins in the 17th century to its still-evolving present forms. Topics covered include: (1) the origins of capitalism as a system of political economy and social organization, (2) the influence capitalism had over the age of empire and industrialization, (3) the familial, social, and cultural effects of capitalism, (4) and the links between capitalism and war, revolution, and social movements in the twentieth century. The course is taught through a combination of lecture and discussion. We will study classic works of political economy, short films and stories, artwork and a selection of more recent scholarship.