

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
 Graduate Program for Cultural Studies
 SPRING 2011 OFFERINGS

; PLEASE NOTE THIS BULLETIN IS TWO PAGES LONG !

CLST 2050: CULTURAL STUDIES COMMON SEMINAR

A Brief History of Imagination and Common Sense

RA Judy

Thursdays 4:00-7:00

CL 237

In numerous works, Ibn Sina (Avicenna) renders the Greek phrase *aisthesis koine*, which translates in Latin as *sensus communis*, and we call common sense, as “*al-has al-mushtarak*” and “*bantâsiya*.” The latter of the two being an Arabic transliteration of what Aristotle termed *phantasia*, designating imagination. The identification of *sensus communis* with imagination is already suggested in Aristotle’s *De Anima*, although in a cursory manner that has generated considerable speculation about the significance of the Stagirite’s concept of the mind, especially so in the past two decades among theorists in cognitive sciences. Yet, Ibn Sina’s handling of the connection occurs in a tradition of substantial elaboration by Arabic-language thinkers that was already more than a century old when he entered the field, in which common sense/imagination played both a constitutive and a reflective role in what we today would call social formation, but which they designated as *umma*, in the sense of an extensive continuum that included political institutions. This sense of common sense as socio-political becomes a key concept in modern Western thinking, a crucial example of which is Giambattista Vico’s use of *sensus communis* in both his *Universal Law* and *New Science of the Common Nature of the Nations* to designate social sense, a sense of propriety in dealing with our fellows, what the French call *savoir faire*, driving all forms of human civilization. In this seminar, we will begin to excavate the genealogy of this notion of common sense, with a particular focus on its relationship to the elaboration over time of theories of imagery and mind, as well as aesthetics in order to begin some careful consideration of formation of the human emergent now a day. Among the texts to be engaged are the works of Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd (Averroes) Aquinas, Machiavelli, Spinoza, Hobbes, Shaftesbury, Hume, Vico, Kant, Coleridge, Benjamin, Arendt, and McLuhan.

Category A:	Category B:	Category C:	Category D:
<i>Text and Theory</i>	<i>Disciplines & Intellectual Movements</i>	<i>Cultural Antagonisms & Cultural Crises</i>	<i>Designated Courses</i>
COMMRC 2220 Readings in Critical Theory: Culture and Technology Olga Kuchinskaya	CLST 2008 (2 credits) Special Topics in Cultural Studies: Successful Societies Jonathan Arac	FRENCH 2600 Revolution Not Yet: French Political Philosophy after 1968 Giuseppina Mecchia	ENGLIT 2649 LITERATURE OF ADOPTION Marianne Novy
GER 3814 Literary and Cultural Modernism: Parables of Modernity Robert Buch	COMMRC 2226 Media & Cultural Studies: Popular Media btwn Political Economy & Representation Brent Malin ENGFLM 2483 SURREALISM AND CINEMA Adam Lowenstein	HIST 2773 Scientific Racism Seymour Drescher & Alejandro de la Fuente	FRENCH 2106 Christine de Pizan: Poetry, Prose, and Politics Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski

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RELGST 3370 Death and the Afterlife in Buddhist Cultures Linda Penkower	ENGLIT 2650 Literature, Landscape, and Architecture John Twynning	MUSIC 2990 (1 credit) Independent Study—Music, Race, and Place George Lipsitz & Andrew Weintraub	GER 2144/3144 Intellectual History: Lessing to Freud John Lyon
RUSS 2113 Bakhtin's Aesthetics Johnathan Platt	HAA 2400 Special Topics: Modern Supernatural: Art, Photography, and Gender in the Late 19 th & Early 20 th Centuries Elizabeth Otto	RUSS 2642 Russian Cinema: Perestroika and Beyond Nancy Condee	GER 2887/3887 CONTEMPORARY GERMAN FILM: (Un)popular Culture Randall Halle
RUSS 2306 Dostoevsky: The Major Novels Vladimir Padunov	HAA 2401 Special Topics in Contemporary Art: Theories of Contemporaneity Terry Smith	SOC 3398 Topics in Social Movements: Social Movement Communities and Coalitions Suzanne Staggenborg	SPAN 2444 Genetic Criticism & Latin American Texts Daniel Balderston
	ENGLIT 2591 Latin British Cultural Studies Jane Feuer	SPAN 2462 Latin American 20 th Century Topics: "Women Writing" Between Law and Nature Áurea María Sotomayor-Miletti	
ENGLIT 2066 Interrogating Canonicity Colin MacCabe	WOMNST 2400 (1 credit) Gender Theory Today Judith Halberstam & Todd Reeser	COMMRC 2203 Philosophy and Rhetoric Lynn Clarke	

Requirements for PhD certificate in Cultural Studies:

- Common Seminar
- One course from each of categories A, B, C
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- Foreign-language proficiency (as required by the home department or in consultation with the Program)

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- Common Seminar
- One course from category A or B
- One D course in the student's home department
- One D course *outside* the student's home department or from category C
- Foreign-language proficiency (as required by the home department or in consultation with the Program)

For detailed information on the Cultural Studies MA and PhD certificates, please see www.pitt.edu/~cultural or write to
Giuseppina Mecchia, Director, Graduate Program for Cultural Studies (mecchia@pitt.edu)

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