

## **ATEK - Art and Technology 620-01 Technology, Culture & Critique Fall 2017**

Scott Benzel  
Mondays 1pm - 4:50 C108  
Office Hours by appointment Thursdays  
Please email to make an appointment:  
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### **Required texts: Selected PDFs in folder**

**Course Description:** *Technology, Culture and Critique* explores experimental, interdisciplinary and non-traditional approaches to art-making with an emphasis on digital and electronic media (text, code, sound, and image), interactivity (social, relational, or technical), hybridity, immersion (physical or virtual), network strategies, and live performance. We will examine participants and others' artwork in light of the cultural, social and political issues that inform and arise from the work. Various critical methodologies will be employed allowing for the most appropriate format for discussion and analysis.

The first several classes will be comprised of lectures on the subjects of Technology, Culture, and Critique followed by discussions and critiques. The following classes will include some short lectures and critiques.

Do not be alarmed by the volume of reading material, some is quite short, some will be skimmed, some covered in class, much excerpted. All readings are to be completed before the day of class except for those of the first day, which will be read during class.

### **Grading will be as follows:**

Lecture and Critique attendance and participation = 100%

### **Foundational Reading (complete before Oct. 16)**

Marx and Engels, *The Ruling Class and the Ruling Ideas*  
Stuart Hall, *Encoding/Decoding*  
Gilbert Simondon, *On the Mode of Existence of Technical Objects*  
*Washed up on Silicon Beach II, selections*

### **1. Sept. 11 Cosmology, Culture, and Critique; Parrhêsia**

We will read and discuss in class:

Iain Hamilton Grant, *Suprematist Ontology and the Ultra Deep Field Problem, excerpt*  
Nick Bostrom, *In the Great Silence there is Great Hope, excerpt*

Judith Butler, *What is Critique? An Essay on Foucault's Virtue, excerpt*  
Michel Foucault, *What is Critique? excerpt*  
Claire Fontaine, *Toward an imageless political education and Washed up on Silicon Beach II, excerpt*

all of the above texts are included in the PDF folder for further reading and review

### **2. September 18 Recursive Epistemology and Critique; Art Worlds Internalist and**

**ATEK - Art and Technology 620-01 Technology, Culture & Critique**

## **Externalist**

Catherine Malabou, *What should we do with our Brain?* excerpt  
Pierre Bourdieu, *The Market for Symbolic Goods*, excerpt  
Niels Albertsen and Bülent Diken, *Artworks' Networks, Field, System or Mediators?*  
Andrea Fraser, *L' 1 % c'est Moi*

*Presentation and Critique*

### **3. Sept. 25 What Algorithms Want**

Hannes Grassegger and Mikael Krogerus, "I just showed that the bomb was there." Das Magazin  
David Golumbia, *The Politics of Bitcoin, Software as Rightwing Extremism*, excerpt  
Ed Finn, *What algorithms want, Imagination in the age of computing*, excerpt

*Presentation and Critique*

### **4. October 2**

*Presentation and Critique*

### **October 9 NO CLASS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY**

### **5. October 16 *Unveiling the Consort*, over the edge with Jack Burnham**

Jack Burnham, *Beyond Modern Sculpture*, excerpt  
*Software, information technology, its new meaning for art* exhibition catalog, skim  
Jack Burnham, *Unveiling the Consort*

*Presentation and Critique*

### **6. October 23**

*Presentation and Critique*

### **7. October 30 *I, too, wondered if I couldn't sell something and succeed in life. The idea of inventing something insincere finally crossed my mind and I set to work at once.***

Benjamin H.D. Buchloh, *Open Letters, Industrial Poems*  
Adrian Piper, *Some Thoughts on the Political Character of this Situation*

*Presentation and Critique*

### **8. November 6**

*Presentation and Critique*

### **9. November 13 *In Q Tel***

**ATEK - Art and Technology 620-01 Technology, Culture & Critique**

Eva Cockcroft, *Abstract Expressionism, Weapon of the Cold War*, excerpt  
Carl Bernstein, *The CIA and the Media, How Americas Most Powerful News Media Worked Hand in Glove with the Central Intelligence Agency and Why the Church Committee Covered It Up*  
John T. Reinart, *In Q Tel, CIA as Venture Capitalist*, excerpt  
*Palantir: The Future of Analysis*, whitepaper

*Presentation and Critique*

**10. November 20**

*Presentation and Critique*

**11. November 27**

*Presentation and Critique*

**12. December 4**

*Presentation and Critique*

**13. December 11**

*Presentation and Critique*