



MENU

COMM 275 OBJECT THEORIES INTELLECTUAL BISTRO

The aim of this course is to explore some of the different ways in which objects have been conceptualized and studied across a variety of disciplines and historical periods.

We will do so through this syllabus-menu from which we will collectively choose some appetizers, some entrées, and finally some desserts. The idea, therefore, is not to follow a linear sequence, but to be able to indulge in some intellectual *delicatessens* while skipping others depending on where our intellectual appetites and conversations take us.

My role in this course will be that of a *maître d'restaurant* and *sommelier*, suggesting courses and pairings and providing you with useful *digestifs* to help with difficult intellectual digestions.



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Appetizers

1.- Why Objects?

Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura*, Books I, V and VI

2.- Iconic objects

Belting, H. Likeness and Presences, Preface, 1,2,3,13,20
Bynum, C.W. Christian Materiality, 15-36, 125-174
Wood, C. & Nagel, A. *Anachronic Renaissance* TBD

3.- Technological Objects

Heidegger, M. The Question Concerning Technology
Gilbert Simondon On the Mode of Existence of Technical Objects

4.- Art objects

Kubler, G. The Shape of Time
Gell, A., Art and Agency TBD
Danto, A. The Transfiguration of the Commonplace
TBD



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Entrées

5.- Alfred North Whitehead

The Concept of Nature, I, IV and VII
Process and Reality, pp. 1-126, 168-198, 280-317
Stengers, I. Thinking with Whitehead, 42, 58, 85-93. 105,113

6.- Peter Sloterdijk

Spheres I TBD
Spheres II TBD
"Airquakes," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 27.1 (2009): 41-57

7.- Jacques Rancière

The Politics of Aesthetics, 7-46
Aesthetics and its discontents, I, III

Desserts

8.- Anthropological Objects

Viveiros de Castro, E. Cannibal Metaphysics. TBD
Kohn, E. *How Forests Think: Toward an anthropology beyond the human.* TBD.
Henare, A (et.al). *Thinking Through things.* TBD

9.- Feminist objects

Coole D., Frost S. New Materialisms, Intro, I, III, V, VI, VIII
Bennett, J. *Vibrant Matter*
Strathern. M. Property Substance and Effect TBD

10.- Philosophical objects

Bryant, L. The Democracy of Objects TBD
Harman, G. Quadruple object TBD.
Garcia, T. Form and Object TBD



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Chef's Specials

Ecological Objects

Gibson, J. The ecological approach to visual perception Part I
Bateson, G. Steps to an Ecology of Mind V, VI
Ingold, T, Making TBD

Payment

Payment is expected in the form of a lively and active engagement in conversation and collective thinking (40%) and a final essay of XXX words (60%) in which you will be asked to apply the insights gained in this course **to advance your own research.**

Opening Hours Fridays 11:00 -
1:50p MCC 201

Directions*

The COGR275 Bistro is situated on the west side of the UCSD campus, with access from the I-5 via La Jolla Village Drive (UCSD MapLink has further maps of campus and driving directions)

*Please note that parking is not free

