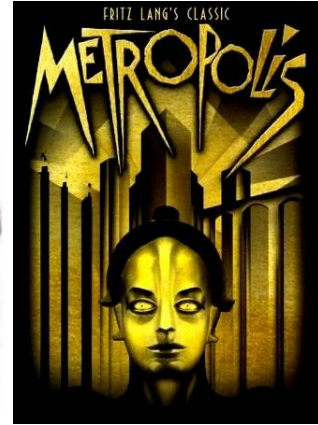




DREAMS OF (HUMAN) MACHINES

Byrne Seminar Fall 2014
Course number: 01:090:101:06
Tuesdays, 1:10-2:30pm
Hardenbergh Hall A5

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172 College Avenue

This seminar examines the role of machines and automatons in regard to the modernist crisis of representation, the fantasy of artificial procreation, and the connection between art and life. We will investigate the way in which Friedrich Nietzsche's typewriter influenced his writing, accompany Rainer Maria Rilke's *Malte Laurids Brigge* on his visit to the Salpêtrière hospital in Paris (excerpts); read Franz Kafka's horror story *In the Penal Colony*, travel to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to see Marcel Duchamp's famous installation *The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (The Large Glass)*, try to make sense of Dadaist poems and André Breton's Surrealist concept of "automatic writing," and watch Fritz Lang's famous silent movie *Metropolis* (1927) as well as Ridley Scott's movie *Blade Runner* (1982).

Week 1 (Sep 2)

Introduction: Nietzsche's typewriter

Week 2 (Sep 9)

Reading, Villiers de L'Isle Adam, *Eve of the Future* (part I)

Week 3 (Sep 16)

Reading: Rilke, *Malte Laurids Brigge* (part I)

Week 4 (Sep 23)

Reading: Kafka, "In the Penal Colony"

1st response paper due (3 pages)

Week 5 (Sep 30)

Readings: Hugo Ball, *Tenderenda* (excerpts) and Dada Sound Poems, Ernst Jandl, "Schtzgrmm"

Week 6 (Oct 7)

Readings: André Breton, "Surrealist Manifesto" (excerpts) and Freud's "[Mystic Writing Pad](#)"

Week 7 (Oct 14)

Film: Fritz Lang, [Metropolis](#)

Reading: Donna Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto"

2nd response paper due (3 pages)

Week 8 (Oct 21)

Reading: Philip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

Week 9 (Oct 28)

Film: Ridley Scott, *Blade Runner*

Sunday, Nov 2

EXCURSION: Duchamp in the Philadelphia Museum of Art (<http://www.philamuseum.org/>)

Readings: Duchamp, *The Green Box*

Week 10 (Nov 4)

NO CLASS

Final response paper due (3 pages)

**Please purchase the following readings
(all other materials will be made available on Sakai):**

Rainer Maria Rilke, *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge*. Penguin Classics (2009).

ISBN-10: 0141182210. ISBN-13: 978-0141182216. \$11.41

Philip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Del Rey (1996).

ISBN-10: 0345404475. ISBN-13: 978-0345404473. \$7.91