ART 80: ART THEORY  
TU/TH 9:40-11:10 AM  

FALL 2011  
LOCATION: MEDIA ARTS LAB (BC4)

PROFESSOR  PETER FREUND
EMAIL: PJF2@STMARYS-CA.EDU
TEL: 1 510 325 3540 (mobile)

OFFICE HOURS: TU & WED 3-4PM AND BY ARRANGEMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces students to the conceptual terrain of 20th & 21st century critical theory and its relationship to artistic practice. The class will proceed via seminar format based on close readings of seminal texts and will traverse a broad array of interdisciplinary topics and critical approaches ranging from psychoanalysis and philosophy to anthropology and political economy. Assignments will include research and creative projects.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and articulate salient themes characteristic of critical theory.
- Analyze art works within a broader context of critical theoretical discourse.
- Describe relationships between artistic experimentation and social justice.
- Formulate interpretive questions and lead a discussion of these questions based in the course readings.
- Extrapolate ideas from theory to art practice, either in the form of analytical writing or art production or both.
- Formulate in writing a critical-theoretical thesis and elaborate it through analytical supports in a full-length essay.
- Create a work of art inspired by one or more of the art theories studied in the course.

REQUIRED READINGS
The assigned course reading will be made available through Moodle. Students are responsible for printing out the readings and bringing them to class for discussion. The SMC library has printers for your use.

NOTIFICATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS, QUESTIONS
Announcements, assignments, and grades will be posted on Moodle. Check there whenever you’ve misplaced an assignment. I will be sending out emails to your SMC email account throughout the term. You are expected to check Moodle AND your SMC email account routinely.

If you have questions that cannot be answered during class time or if you cannot make my regular office hours, please email me and/or make an appointment to speak with me in conference. I am also giving you my personal telephone number, in the event of particularly urgent messages (use it within reason).

CRITICAL TENTACLES: FORUMS AND INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS
- Every week you are expected to participate class forums on Moodle. (During the second week, we will go over how to create a forum thread.) Every week you are expected to initiate one forum inquiry/topic and to respond to two forum inquiries per week posted by your classmates.
- For each class session, you are expected to prepare at least one well-thought-out interpretive question for class discussion. It is your responsibility to initiate this question during the class discussion, and you should enter each after class in the forums.

GRADES
Final grades will be based on a point system (0-100) using the following criteria.

- 30 points  Term Project (art and theory components)
- 20 points  Attendance and productive participation/initiative during class sessions
- 20 points  Midterm Exam
- 20 points  Critical Tentacles: Blog entries, interpretive questions, forum participation
- 10 points  Final Exam (10 points)
- Extra Credit (arranged in consultation with professor)

Grading Scale:

A+ 101 -110 points
A   91 -100 points
B   81 - 90 points
C   71 - 80 points
D  61 - 70 points
F  0 - 60 points

Students can expect an average of six (6) hours of homework outside of class per week. There will be opportunities for extra credit through consultation.

The following will result in a lower final grade:
  o  Arriving late to class more than three times during the semester.
  o  More than two unexcused absence.
  o  Obstructing the learning environment with distractions and other disruptive actions.
  o  Coming to class unprepared.

Students are expected to abide by the Student Honor Code, found in the SMC Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Services and reasonable accommodations are available to students with physical or mental impairments or conditions that qualify as a disability and which impede the equal opportunity to participate with other students at Saint Mary's College of California. Verification of a disability, its nature and the appropriateness of the requested accommodation in relation to the disability either through a personal physician, a licensed learning specialist, or a licensed and credentialed mental health professional must be submitted to Saint Mary's 504 Coordinator, located at Academic Advising and Achievement Services Office in De La Salle Hall.