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### **JGC 1855: Critical Theory in Context: The French-German Connection Contradiction**

This course examines central theoretical issues in contemporary thought with particular attention to the role that the “Frankfurt School” and its affiliates such as Benjamin, Adorno, and others play in the context of modern German social and cultural thought. In France, thinkers like Derrida respond to this tradition and enrich it. The course explores in which way the continuing dialogue between these thinkers informs current critical approaches to rethinking issues and concerns such as theorizing modernity, culture, secularization, multiculturalism, and the vital role of cultural difference.

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| 12 Sep | Introduction  |
| 19 Sep | Simmel, essays [Yom Kippur; class will be rescheduled]  |
| 26 Sep | Simmel, “The Problem of Historical Time”, Bloch, selection from <i>The Heritage of Our Times</i> ; Benjamin, <i>Concept of History and Arcades</i> , “N”<br>(N 1, 6; N 1 a, 3-4; N 2 a, 3-5; N 3, 1-3 a, 1; N 4, 1-4; N 5 a, 1; N 5 a, 7; N 6, 1; N 7, 6-7; N 7 a, 2-7; N 8, 1; N 9, 6; N 9 a, 1-6; N 10 a, 3; N 11, 3-4; N 18, 3; N 19, 1) |
| 3 Oct  | Derrida, <i>Monolingualism of the Other</i>   |
| 10 Oct | Adorno, <i>Minima Moralia</i>   |
| 17 Oct | Goldschmidt, <i>Contradiction Set Free</i>  |
| 24 Oct | Goldschmidt, CSF cont.  |
| 31 Oct | Adorno, <i>Negative Dialectics</i>  |
| 7 Nov  | Reading Week  |
| 14 Nov | Adorno, from <i>Negative Dialectics</i>   |

**In part 2 “Concepts and Categories” read (page numbers of Ashton's translation):**  
134-166 [German 139-168]: from *The Indissoluble* “Something” to *Constellations in Science*; 173-176 [German 174- 177] *German Particularity and the Particular; Subject-Object Dialectics*; 184-189 [German 184-190] *The Object’s Preponderance to The Object not a Datum*; 192-194 [German 193-194] *Passage to Materialism*; 202-207 [German 202-207] *Suffering Physical to end of part 2*

21 Nov	Derrida, <i>Rogues</i>
28 Nov	Derrida, <i>Rogues</i> cont.
5 Dec	Derrida, <i>Faith and Knowledge</i> or “The Vacant Chair of Philosophy”

Texts:

Adorno, *Negative Dialectics*

----- *Minima Moralia*

Derrida, *Monolingualism of the Other*

----- *Rogues*

All other texts are posted on Blackboard

### **Marking Scheme JGC 1855**

Participation	10%
Term paper	90%

### **Marking Scheme GER 401**

Participation	10%
Midterm paper	30%
Final paper	60%