

German 470:388-01; 01:195:396-01; 01:082:292:01  
Fall 2010  
MW 2:50-4:10pm  
172 College Avenue, Seminar Room

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Office Hrs.: W 4:15-5:15pm

## Bachelor Machines: Authorship, Automaton, and the Avant-Garde (3 credits)



### Course Description

The relationship between Man and machine is long and complex—ranging from mechanic dolls in the late 18th century to androids and cyborgs in contemporary science fiction. This course examines the role of machines and automaton in relation to the modernist crisis of representation and the fantasy of artificial procreation. We will particularly focus on the fantasy of the so-called *machine célibataire* as a model for a self-contingent form of authorship. The idea of the bachelor machine reflects the status of the modern subject in a deserted world, replaces procreation with a continuous and repetitive artificial creation and understands art as a substitution of life. We will trace this idea throughout textual and visual manifestations in the context of the European avant-garde movement. An emphasis will be placed on topics such as the genealogies of gender, the relation of art and life, the notion of technology, psychoanalysis, and the crisis of authorship. *Taught in English.*

### Final Grade

Attendance and participation	40%
Two response papers	20% (10 each)
Oral Presentation	10%
Final paper	20%

### Grade distribution

A=90-100%; B+=85-89; B=80-84; C+=75-79; C=70-74; D=65-69; F=64 and below

## **Required Books**, available at the bookstore

Jünger, Ernst. *On Pain*, transl. David C. Durst, Telos Press, 2008 · ISBN-10: 0914386409 · ISBN-13: 978-0914386407

Kafka, Franz. *The Metamorphosis, In the Penal Colony, and other Stories*, trans. Joachim Neugroschel, Touchstone 2000 · ISBN-10: 0684800705 · ISBN-13: 978-0684800707

L'Isle-Adam, Villiers de. *Tomorrow's Eve*, transl. Martin Adams, Urbana: U of Illinois P, 1982 · ISBN-10: 0252069552 · ISBN-13: 978-0252069550

Marinetti, Filippo Tommaso. *Mafarka the Futurist*, transl. Carol Diethe, Steve Cox, Middlesex UP, 1998 · ISBN-10: 1898253102 · ISBN-13: 978-1898253105 ([out of print](#))

Roussel, Raymond. *Impressions of Africa*, Calder Publications, 2001 · ISBN-10: 0714502898 · ISBN-13: 978-0714502892 ([out of print](#))

## **All other readings to be downloaded from SAKAI**

### **Attendance**

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse (a doctor's or college dean's note, for instance) should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Three late arrivals count as one absence. Note: It is the responsibility of students who have been absent (for any reason) to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

### **Photocopies**

Department photocopying fees add up quickly and impressively; we will therefore need to collect from each student 5 cents per page toward the cost of handouts other than the syllabus.

### **Online course materials**

Please note that our course will have its own website on <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>. You can log on using your Net ID and password. If the course does not appear as one of your tabs, please search and add it or contact me and I will grant you access. Some of the reading will be available via Sakai and you are required to print and bring those readings to class on the scheduled days as part of your class participation grade. Please check Sakai frequently for updates, announcements, and resources. You can also communicate with your classmates via Sakai in the Chat Room or pose questions in the Forum. Online materials may also be available through library online reserves. Please go to [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib\\_servs/course\\_reserves.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib_servs/course_reserves.shtml) and log in using your Net ID and password. You can then search by Instructor, Course Number, or Course Name.

### **Plagiarism\***

Plagiarism is an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to his or her dean for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than your own, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

### Disability Support Services

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with teachers about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

### Cell Phones

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, MP3players...) must be turned off during class out of respect for the instructor and fellow students. Please schedule all important phone communications outside of class time.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### Week 1

W 9/2 Introduction

### Week 2

M 9/6 LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

W 9/8 Carrouges, *Les Machines Célibataires* (Library Reserve Desk); de Certeau, “The Arts of Dying: Celibatory Machines”

### Week 3

#### Symbolism

M 9/13 Villiers de l’Isle-Adam, *The Eve of the Future*

W 9/15 de l’Isle-Adam, cont.; Lastra, “Inscriptions and Simulation”

### Week 4

#### Psychoanalysis

M 9/20 Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams*, chapter VII

W 9/22 Daniel Paul Schreber, *Memoirs of my Nervous Illness*; Freud, *The Schreber Case*

### Week 5

M 9/27 Schreber/Freud, continued

W 9/29 Deleuze/Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus*, chapter 1

### Week 6

#### Expressionism

M 10/4 **1<sup>st</sup> Response Paper due.** Paul Wegener, *The Golem* (1921). Readings: Gershom Scholem, “The Idea of the Golem”; Rickels, “Satan and Golem, inc.”

W 10/6 Kafka, *In the Penal Colony*

### Week 7

M 10/11 Kafka, continued; Deleuze/Guattari, *Toward a Minor Literature*, chapter 6 and 7

W 10/13 de Lauretis, *Technologies of Gender*, chapter 1

<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Futurism</b>
M 10/18	Marinetti, "Futurist Manifesto" (1909); Schnapp, "Propeller Talk",
W 10/20	Marinetti, <i>Mafarka</i> (1909); Spackman, "Mafarka and Son"
<b>Week 9</b>	
M 10/25	Raymond Roussel, <i>Impressions of Africa</i> (1910)
W 10/27	Michel Foucault, <i>Death and the Labyrinth</i> , chapter 1 and 2
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Dadaism</b>
M 11/1	Ball, <i>Tenderenda</i> (1914-1920); Schnapp, "Introduction"; Tzara, "Dadaist Manifesto 1918"
W 11/3	Duchamp, <i>La Mariée mis à nu par ses célibataires, même/Le Grand Verre</i> (1915-1923). Reading: Hopkins, "Constructing and Unveiling the Bride"
<b>Week 11</b>	
M 11/8	Francis Picabia, <i>Fille née sans mere</i> (1916-17); Hannah Höch, <i>Das schöne Mädchen</i> (1919-20); Max Ernst, <i>The Preparation of Glue from Bones</i> (1921); Readings: Hopkins, "Max Ernst's Response to Duchamp", Picabia, Excerpts from <i>I am a Beautiful Monster</i>
W 11/10	André Breton, "Manifesto of Surrealism"; Walter Benjamin, "Surrealism: The Last Snapshot of the European Intelligentsia"
<b>Week 12</b>	
M 11/15	Hermine Moos, <i>Life-Size Fetish Doll of Alma Mahler</i> (1919). Readings: Bonnie Roos, "Oskar Kokoschka's Sex Toy: The Women and the Doll Who Conceived the Artist"
W 11/17	Hans Bellmer, <i>Poupée</i> (1936). Readings: Sue Taylor, "Uncanny Automata" 7:30pm GERMAN MOVIE NIGHT: Fritz Lang, <i>Metropolis</i> (1927)
<b>Week 13</b>	
M 11/22	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Response Paper due.</b> Discussion of <i>Metropolis</i> . Readings: Huyssen, "The Vamp and the Machine: Technology and Sexuality in Fritz Lang's Metropolis"; Lungstrum, "Metropolis and the Technosexual Woman of German Modernity"
W 11/24	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
<b>Week 14</b>	
M 11/29	Ernst Jünger, <i>On Pain</i> (1934)
W 12/1	Jünger cont.; Theweleit, <i>Male Fantasies II</i> , chapter: "Male Bodies and the White Terror"
<b>Week 15</b>	
M 12/6	Martin Heidegger, "The Question Concerning Technology" (1954)
W 12/8	Heidegger, continued
<b>Week 16</b>	
M 12/13	<b>Term Paper Workshop</b>