

G825: Seminar in German Literature  
MW 2:30-3:45; BH664

Professor William Rasch

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**Judgment II:  
Kant, Arendt, Lyotard**

**Purpose:** The course is a continuation of the treatment of the faculty of judgment explored in Professor Michel Chaouli's fall semester seminar, *Judgment I: Kant's Kritik der Urteilkraft (Critique of Judgment)*; however, participation in Chaouli's seminar is **not** a prerequisite. We will begin where Professor Chaouli left off – that is, with Kant – but we will shift the emphasis from aesthetic to political judgment by examining Kant's post-critical essays on history and politics. From there we will move to an examination of two 20<sup>th</sup>-century thinkers who have often been associated with Kantian ways of thinking, Hannah Arendt and Jean-François Lyotard. We will continue to focus on the nature of judgment – the affinities, as articulated by Arendt and Lyotard, between aesthetic and political judgment – along with correlative issues such as civic responsibility. In line with radical Kantian thinking, we will wrestle continually with the paradoxical attempts both to distinguish between theory and practice and to extinguish that distinction, without hoping to come to any definitive resolution.

**Texts:**

**Books:**

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| Arendt:    | <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i>                   | [EJ] |
| --:        | <i>Lectures on Kant's Political Philosophy</i> | [LK] |
| --:        | <i>Responsibility and Judgment</i>             | [RJ] |
| Hampshire: | <i>Justice is Conflict</i>                     |      |
| Hutchings: | <i>Kant, Critique and Politics</i>             |      |
| Kant:      | <i>Political Writings</i>                      | [PW] |
| Lyotard:   | <i>The Differend</i>                           |      |

**Abbreviations:**

**E-reserve (password: attract):**

Arendt/Scholem: Correspondence  
Barnouw: "The Obscurity of Evil" (from her *Visible Spaces*)  
Bates: "Crisis Between the Wars: Derrida and the Origins of Undecidability"  
Bernstein: "Arendt on Thinking"  
Cohen: "A Generation's Response to *Eichmann in Jerusalem*"  
Habermas: "Kant's Idea of Perpetual Peace, With the Benefit of Two Hundred Years' Hindsight"  
Hampshire: "The Social Spirit of Mankind"  
McGowan: "Understanding and Judging the Reality of Evil" (from his *Hannah Arendt: An Introduction*)  
Wellmer: "Hannah Arendt on Judgment"

**Departmental reserve:**

|           |                        |      |
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| Benjamin: | <i>Judging Lyotard</i> | [JL] |
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**Schedule:**

**Kant**

| <u>Week of</u> | <u>Primary readings</u>  | <u>Supplementary readings</u>                    |
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| J 9            | M: Intro<br>W: Kant: "Universal History"<br>in <i>PW</i> 41-53                         | Hampshire: "Social Spirit"<br>Hutchings pp. 1-37 |
| J 16           | M: Kant: "Theory/Practice"<br>in <i>PW</i> 61-92<br>W: Kant: "Theory/Practice" (cont.) | Hutchings pp. 38-80                              |
| J 23           | M: Kant: "Perpetual Peace"<br>in <i>PW</i> 93-130<br>W: Kant: "Perpetual Peace" cont.  | Habermas: "Kant's Idea of<br>Perpetual Peace..." |
| J 30           | M: Kant: "Contest of Faculties"<br>in <i>PW</i> 176-190<br>W: Kant wrap-up             | Hampshire: <i>Justice is Conflict</i>            |

**Arendt**

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| F 6  | M: Arendt: <i>EJ</i> 3-150 (chps. 1-8)<br>W: Arendt: <i>EJ</i> 151-279 (chps. 9-Epilogue)   | Cohen: "Generation's<br>Response"                                    |
| F 13 | M: Arendt: <i>EJ</i> 280-98 (Postscript)<br>Arendt/Scholem: Correspondence<br>W: Arendt: "Personal Responsibility under<br>Dictatorship" in <i>RJ</i> 17-48 | Barnouw: "Obscurity of<br>Evil" (from her<br><i>Visible Spaces</i> ) |
| F 20 | M: Arendt: "Some Questions of Moral<br>Philosophy" in <i>RJ</i> 49-158<br>W: Arendt: "Some Questions" (cont.)   | Hutchings pp. 81-101   |
| F27  | M: Arendt: "Thinking and Moral<br>Considerations" in <i>RJ</i> 159-89<br>W: Arendt: "Collective Responsibility"<br>in <i>RJ</i> 147-58                      | Bernstein: "Arendt on<br>Thinking" ( <i>CCHA</i> 277-92)             |
| M 6  | M: Arendt: <i>LK</i> 3-51<br>W: Arendt: <i>LK</i> 51-85   | Wellmer: "Hannah Arendt on<br>Judgment"                              |
| M 13 | <b>SPRING BREAK</b>   |  |

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|------|--|---|
| M 20 | M: Beiner: "HA on Judging" in<br><i>LK</i> 89-174<br>W: Arendt wrap-up | McGowan: "Understanding and<br>Judging...Evil" (96-149 of<br>his <i>Hannah Arendt: An Intro</i> )<br>Bates: "Crisis Between the Wars" |
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**Saturday, March 25: Arendt Mini-Conference**

**Lyotard**

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| M 27 | M: <i>The Differend</i> xi-31<br>W: <i>The Differend</i> 32-58   | Hutchings pp. 125-45   |
| A 3  | M: <i>The Differend</i> 59-85<br>W: <i>The Differend</i> 86-106  | Beardsworth: "On Critical 'Post'"<br>(in <i>JL</i> 43-80)      |
| A 10 | M: <i>The Differend</i> 107-27<br>W: <i>The Differend</i> 128-50 | Ingram: "Postmodern Kantianism"<br>(in <i>JL</i> 119-44)       |
| A 17 | M: <i>The Differend</i> 151-81<br>W: Lyotard wrap-up             | Readings: "Pagans" ( <i>JL</i> 168-91)<br>Hutchings pp. 186-91 |

**Conclusion**

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| A 24 | Course wrap-up |
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**Writing assignments:**

Each student will write:

- One ca. 5-page analysis of one of the *secondary* readings to be distributed to all
- One seminar paper