I. Cultural Theory (Alphabetical Order)


I. Cultural Theory (Chronological Order)

* Nietzsche, Friedrich. The Gay Science. ................................................................. 1882
Freud, Sigmund. Totem and Taboo. ............................................................. 1913
Freud, Sigmund. Civilization and Its Discontents. ........................................... 1930
* Bataille, Georges. The Accursed Share. ......................................................... 1949
Fanon, Frantz. Black Skins, White Masks. ....................................................... 1952
* Brown, Norman O. Life Against Death: The Psychoanalytic Meaning of History. .. 1959
Goffman, Erving. The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life. ............................ 1959
Fanon, Frantz. The Wretched of the Earth. ....................................................... 1961
Habermas, Jürgen. The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere. ............. 1962
* Foucault, Michel. “A Preface to Transgression.” .............................................. 1963
Brecht, Bertolt. Brecht on Theatre: The Development of an Aesthetic. ................. 1964
Debord, Guy. Society of the Spectacle. ............................................................. 1967
Baudrillard, Jean. For a Critique of the Political Economy of the Sign. ................. 1972
Deleuze, Gilles and Felix Guattari. Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia. .... 1972
Williams, Raymond. Television: Technology and Cultural Form. ......................... 1974
Foucault, Michel. The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1. ........................................ 1976
De Certeau, Michel. The Practice of Everyday Life. ......................................... 1980
Kristeva, Julia. Powers of Horror. .............................................................. 1980
Jameson, Fredric. The Political Unconscious. .................................................. 1981
De Lauretis, Theresa. Alice Doesn’t: Feminism, Semiotics, Cinema. ...................... 1984
Huyssem, Andreas. After the Great Divide. ...................................................... 1986
Lyotard, Jean-Francois. The Postmodern Explained: Correspondence, 1982-1985. .... 1986
Butler, Judith. Gender Trouble. ............................................................... 1990
Silverman, Kaja. Male Subjectivity at the Margins. ....................................... 1992
Bourdieu, Pierre. The Field of Cultural Production: Essays on Art and Literature. ... 1993
Derrida, Jacques. Spectres of Marx. .............................................................. 1993
Spivak, Gayatri. The Spivak Reader (selections). ................................................ 1996
Kaplan, E. Ann. Looking for the Other: Feminism and the Imperial Gaze. ........... 1997
Muñoz, José Esteban. Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics. . 1999
II. An In-depth Study of a Cultural Phenomenon: American Stand-up Comedy

i. Concert Films / Albums / Documentaries
Bruce, Lenny. *Lenny Bruce Performance Film*. DVD. 1965.
Cho, Margaret. *I’m the One that I Want*. DVD. 2000.
Rivers, Joan. *Joan Rivers Presents Mr. Phyllis and Other Funny Stories*. LP. 1965.

ii. Books / Articles
Double, Oliver. *Getting the Joke: The Inner Workings of Stand-up Comedy*. 2005.

* Freud, Sigmund. *Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious.* 1905.


---

**III. Historical Period: Efforts to Purify Public Discourse in America from the 1920s to the 1960s**

**i. Films and Recordings**

*Alibi*, dir. Roland West (1929)

*Blonde Venus*, dir. Joseph von Sternberg (1932)

*She Done Him Wrong*, dir. Lowell Sherman (1933)

*Ecstasy*, dir. Gustav Machatý (1933)

*Tarzan and His Mate*, dir. Cedric Gibbons (1934)

*The Puritan*, dir. Jeff Musso (1938)

*Cabin in the Sky*, dir. Vincente Minnelli (1943)

*The Outlaw*, dir. Howard Hughes (1943)

*The Moon Is Blue*, dir. Otto Preminger (1953)
Baby Doll, dir. Elia Kazan (1956)
To Is a Preposition: Come Is a Verb, perf. Lenny Bruce (1962)
Promises! Promises!, dir. King Donovan (1963)
Lorna, dir. Russ Meyer (1964)
Un Chant d’amour (1965)
Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, dir. Mike Nichols (1966)
I Am Curious (Yellow), dir. Vilgot Sjöman (1967)

ii. Literature
Lawrence, D. H. Lady Chatterley’s Lover (1928)
Miller, Henry. Tropic of Cancer (1934)
Salinger, J. D. The Catcher in the Rye (1951)
Judgment Day, pub. EC Comics (1953)
Ginsberg, Allen. “Howl” (1955)
Nabokov, Vladimir. Lolita (1955)
Burroughs, William. Naked Lunch (1959)

iii. Scholarship
Boyer, Paul S. Purity in Print: Book Censorship in America from the Gilded Age to the Computer Age. 2002.
Couvares, Francis, ed. Movie Censorship and American Culture. 2006.
Jung, Carl G. The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious (selections).

**IV. Area of Specialized Interest:**

**The Academy’s Efforts to Take Humor and Laughter Seriously**

Given my interest in humor theory, my list consists of the field’s dominant writings, which I intend to critique by identifying certain problematic tendencies. These include: the ways in which theorists have demonized and idealized humor and laughter; the commonly held yet unsubstantiated assumptions held by humor theorists; how the predominant stigma against humor and laughter has compromised the theorists’ findings; the varying definitions of humor and laughter; why most scholars view humor and laughter in isolation from tragedy and tears; how humor and laughter challenge the belief in the ontological primacy of the individual. This list also includes several exceptional readings, each of which will help me identify and describe the methods used to redress the theorists’ struggles to take humor and laughter seriously.

Aristotle. *Poetics*, sections III and VII.
---. *Rhetoric*, sections II and III.
---. *Nicomachean Ethics*, section IV.
---. “La Divinité du Rire.” 1943.
* ---. *Le Rire*. 1900.
Norrick, Neal R. Conversational Joking: Humor in Everyday Talk.
Pirandello, Luigi. On Humor. 1908
Plato. Philebus.
Rabelais, François. Gargantua and Pantagruel. 1532, 1534.
Readings, Bill. The University in Ruins. 1997.
Sanders, Barry. Sudden Glory: Laughter as Subversive History. 1996.
Twain, Mark. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. 1884.