

PHI 506.01 / PHI 402 LYOTARD'S AESTHETIC THEORY – READING *DISCOURSE, FIGURE*

M 7:00-9:50

Prof Hugh J. Silverman

Available to multi-disciplinary graduate students and advanced undergraduates, this seminar will focus in particular on Jean-Francois Lyotard's (1924-1998) recently translated *Discourse Figure* (1971). A close reading of this seminal text will show the crucial link between Lyotard's aesthetic theory and contemporary theories of language, desire, and the political. In order to frame the detailed reading of *Discourse Figure*, consideration will also be given to his *Phenomenology* (1954), several 1970s essays on art and psychoanalysis included in *Toward the Postmodern*(1993), and some of the subsequent developments in his postmodern aesthetic theory from *The Inhuman: Reflections on Time* (1988).