NEH-ACTC “Bridging the Gap” Seminars
Year Three: St. Mary’s College of California
“Technology, Art, Values, and the Problems of Technoscience”

The workshop this year will explore the connection between science and the humanities through the themes of nature and art, beauty and power, the good and the useful, and the goals and problems of a technological society.

Pre-Reading: Leon Kass, “Introduction” and Chap. 1 “The Problem of Technology and Liberal Democracy” in Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. This is to raise a set of general issues for this workshop.

First Week


AM: Reading: Plato, Gorgias, (Nichols ed.)
PM: Aristotle, Physics, Book 2 (chapters 1-3, 8); Nicomachean Ethics, Book 1 (chapters 1-7), Book 6 (chapters 3-8); Poetics, chaps. 1-14, 25 (McKeon edition)
EVENING: Lecture “Technology as Liberal Art” Phillip Sloan

DAY 2 (Tuesday): Invention, Beauty, and Divine Limits on Making

AM: Reading: Plato, Timaeus, 27c-29D; 35a-36B (Kalkavage edition)
Laboratory on the monochord
PM: Cicero, “On Invention” Books 1-5 (p. 3–17), 7-9 (pp. 19-25), 11-14 (pp. 31-41) (Loeb Classical: also available as e-text)
Dante, Divine Comedy, “Inferno,” Cantos 1, 2, 5, 26, 34; “Purgatorio,” Cantos 1, 10, 11, 12 (Mandelbaum –Bantam edition)
Reynolds, Discourses on Art, “Discourse 7” (Duplicated)

DAY 3 (Wednesday): Expanding Techne: The State as a Work of Art

AM: Machiavelli, The Prince (Mansfield Edition)
PM: Shakespeare, The Tempest (Penguin)
EVENING: Robert Weiner “Leonardo Da Vinci” (one-man act)

DAY 4 (Thursday): The Mastery of Nature

AM: Bacon, “The Great Instauration” and New Organon, Bk. I
PM: Bacon, New Organon, Bk. II, Aphs 1-21; New Atlantis (Hackett edition)
DAY 5 (Friday):
   AM: REVIEW SESSION: Institutional Developments in Last Year and Planning for Next.

DAY 6 (Sunday Evening)
    7: PM Laboratory on Genetic Mapping in Bacteria (Waring Blender Experiment)

Second Week

DAY 7 (Monday): The Critique of Mastery
    AM: Jonathan Swift, Gulliver’s Travels (opening Letter, “A Voyage to Laputa”); (St. Martins)
    Rousseau, Discourse on the Arts and Sciences (Hackett)
    PM: Huxley, Brave New World (Perennial Classics edition)

DAY 8 (Tuesday): Making Scientific Facts
    AM: Latour and Woolgar, Laboratory Life, chaps 1-3 (Princeton)
    PM: Laboratory on Results of Blender Experiment

DAY 9 (Wednesday): Science, Morality and Politics
    AM: Franz Kafka, “In the Penal Colony” (Barnes and Noble)
    Hawthorne, “The Birthmark” and “The Artist of the Beautiful” (Dover)
    PM: Jonas, The Imperative of Responsibility, chps. 1-3
    EVENING: M. Frayn Copenhagen. (Group reading of the play)

DAY 10 (Thursday): Technology and the Human Good
    AM: Jonas, The Imperative of Responsibility, chps. 5-6
    PM: Kass, Life, Liberty and Pursuit, chps. 3, 4, 5
    Philip Kitcher, Science, Truth and Democracy, chps. 13–14 (“The Luddites Laments” and “Research in an Imperfect World”)
    EVENING: Party

DAY 11 (Friday): REVIEW: Institutional Planning for use of Year 3 materials DISCUSSION OF ALL THREE YEARS: Possibilities for future seminars.
BOOKS TO BE ORDERED: (IN SEQUENCE READ)


Kalkavage, Peter. Elements: A Workbook for Freshman Music. Purchase through St. John’s bookstore; read/review before coming to the seminar.


Kafka, F. In the Penal Colony and Other Stories (New York: Simon and Shuster, 1995) ISBN 0022018079


BOOKS TO BE ORDERED, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER


Kafka, F. *In the Penal Colony and Other Stories* (New York: Simon and Shuster, 1995) ISBN 0020218079


Duplicated materials

Reynolds Discourse

Supplementary laboratory materials