

**Department of English and Writing Studies
Western University**

**English 4050G
January 2015**

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Office hours: Mon. 1-2, Tues.10-11, Thurs 10-11 and by appointment

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Course Description

Taking as its starting point Walter Benjamin's "The Work of Art in the Age of its Technical Reproducibility," this course will attempt to understand the relationship between a

office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>.

The full policy is set out in the handbook:

Presentation

Each student in the course will give one class presentation of 20 minutes in length. You will begin class and will be responsible for introducing the material under discussion that day.

The main point of the seminar is to offer a reading of the text, to engage with it critically, always with a mind to helping us all understand the work better and to generating discussion. My main goal for this course is for all of us to read the works together in an effort to come to terms (to understand, be confused, disquieted, by .sith the

Schedule of Classes

- January 6: Introduction
January 8: Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of its Technological Reproducibility" (hereafter referred to as "artwork essay")
- January 13: Benjamin, artwork essay, Preface, sections I-V; Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, *Capital*
January 15: Marx, *The German Ideology*
- January 20: Benjamin, artwork essay, VI-X; Benjamin, "Little History of Photography"
January 22: Horkheimer and Adorno, "The Culture Industry" (94-115)
- January 28: Benjamin, artwork essay, XI-XII; Benjamin, "The Storyteller"
January 30: Horkheimer and Adorno, "The Culture Industry" (115-136)
- February 3: Benjamin, artwork essay, XIII-XV; Freud, *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life*
February 5: Surrealism, Dada
- February 10: Benjamin, artwork essay, Epilogue; Riefenstahl, *The Triumph of the Will*
February 12: Riefenstahl, *The Triumph of the Will*
- February 17, 19: Reading Week. No Class.*
- February 24: Lanzmann,