

LIT 690-8.01, Spring 2019
Special Topics: Paradigms of Modern Thought
Adorno vs Brecht

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Fredric Jameson

SCHEDULE: Tues + Thurs, 10:05am-11:20am

LOCATION: 107 Friedl

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Brecht and Adorno represent two antagonistic poles of 20th century Marxism which are not adequately summarized by the conventional oppositions of activism versus aestheticism, practice versus theory, performance versus hermeticism, East versus West, collective theater versus the intellectual "school", etc. We might also see them as two of the forces struggling over the soul and the inheritance of Walter Benjamin; or two strategies for dealing with the ossification of the Stalinist party. Both at any rate produced considerable bodies of work over several historical periods: Weimer, the Nazi period, the European immediate postwar; and both projected new ways of thinking dialectically and or coming to terms with the dilemmas of aesthetic modernism. We will read Brecht's major plays, poems, and fictions, his theoretical work in *Me-ti* and on so-called "epic theater", and probably some biographical material (including Peter Weiss, *Aesthetics of Resistance* Vol II). Adorno's vision of history in *Dialectic of Enlightenment* will be studied, along with his autobiographical notes (*Minima Moralia*), his musical and artistic essays *Notes on Literature*, and the seminars on negative dialectics and on aesthetic theory.

BOOK LIST:

Bertolt Brecht:

Brecht Collected Plays, Volume 2 (World Classics) ISBN-13: 978-0413685605
Volume 3 (World Classics) ISBN-13: 978-0413704603
Volume 5 (World Classics) ISBN-13: 978-0413699701
Volume 6 (World Classics) ISBN-13: 978-0413685803
Volume 7 (World Classics) ISBN-13: 978-0413685902

<i>Collected Poems of Bertolt Brecht</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0871407672
<i>Bertolt Brecht's Me-ti</i>	ISBN-13: 978-1472579164
<i>Brecht on Theatre: The Development of an Aesthetic</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0809005420
<i>The Business Affairs of Mr Julius Caesar</i>	ISBN-13: 978-1472582737

Theodor Adorno:

<i>Dialectic of Enlightenment</i> (Stanford U Press; 1st edition 2007)	ISBN 13: 9780804736336
<i>Minima Moralia: Reflections from Damaged Life</i>	ISBN-10: 9781844670512
<i>Aesthetics</i> (Polity Press)	ISBN-13: 9780745679402