

**WALTER BENJAMIN: PHILOSOPHY, MEDIA AND CULTURAL  
CRITIQUE**

Dr. Ori Rotlevy

Spring Semester

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Office Hours: By appointment

Short description:

Walter Benjamin is one of the most significant thinkers for understanding our own times: for the conception of media and of the ongoing appearance of new media, for fathoming the unique experience of the city, for apprehending a culture in which novelty is both a sign of life and decay. The course is dedicated to Benjamin's multi-disciplinary thought: To his philosophy of language, and the distinction between signs and names; to his reflection on various media such as photography, film and radio; and to how these aspects of this thought combine in his critique of modern culture and its embodiment in urban life.

Assessment:

Mid Term :

Short paper (2 pages; 15% of final grade)

Final requirement:

Final paper (6 pages; 85% of final grade)

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Cellular phones must be turned off during class.