

Richard Burt

Lit 4930

Space Shots Air Heads

Fall 2014

Course Description: When philosophy gets high, how high can it go before it crashes? What does the disaster look like when viewed from the air, from outer space, rather than from the apparent security and certainty of land land? Can philosophy ever get above itself? Or will it always dumb itself down when it tries? This is a course about the extraterrestrial and gravity in philosophy and film. Readings include Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book for All and None*; Szendy, *Kant in the Land of Extraterrestrials: Cosmopolitical Philosophical Fictions*; Immanuel Kant, *Universal Natural History and Theory of the Heavens*; Immanuel Kant, *Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View*; Voltaire, *Micromegas* and *Zadig*; Schmitt, *The Theory of the Partisan*; Derrida, *On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness*; Adorno, *The Stars Down to Earth*; and Fontenelle, *Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds*; Blanqui's "Eternity According to the Stars"; Husserl's, "Foundational Investigations of the Spatiality of Nature: the Originary Ark, the Earth, Does Not Move." **Requirements:** Bring copies of any of the required books (listed below) in print on paper (not in electronic form) to class as required; co-lead class discussion twice, once on a Tuesday and once on a Thursday; two discussion questions and three or more "BIG WORDS" for each class; student formulated quizzes each class approved by me; and three 500 word papers; willingness to reflect, think, respond, by paying very, VERY, VERY close formal attention to texts and films. See <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/burt/spaceshotsairheads/>