**COLT 810: ON REPRESSION**

Thursday, 4–6:20

Marston Hall 209

Haynes

Office: Marston Hall 101

Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:30 to 11:30

Family life, as a structure of prohibited desires, is often thought to be the source of similar structures in society or state. The same mechanism — repression — is posited in both cases. We will trace the fate of “repressive hypotheses” from Fourier through Marx and Freud to Foucault and Godelier. Alongside theorists we will read literary works from Hawthorne and Dostoevsky to Guy Davenport.

**Course requirements:**

* Participation in all seminars.
* Students will lead one of the class sessions. This will include delivery of a thirty-minute presentation introducing the material of one of the classes. The introduction will cover essential background and offer critical guidance to the primary reading; the student will also prepare a select bibliography of the most relevant secondary scholarship on the reading.
* Students will submit a final paper of approximately 20 pages. They will present the work at a draft stage during the final class sessions.

September 4 Introduction to the course and to the topic

September 11 Charles Fourier, *Theory of the Four Movements* (1808) and other writings

September 18 Hawthorne, *The Blithedale Romance* (1852)

September 25 NO CLASS

October 9 Dostoevsky, *Demons* (1872)

Marx and Engels, *Communist Manifesto* (1848)

Engels, *Anti-Dühring* (1878)

October 16 Benjamin, ‘Convolute W’ of the *Arcades Project* (1927–40)

Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization* (1955)

Barthes, *Sade Fourier Loyola* (1971)

Jameson, ‘Fourier: Ontology and Utopia’ (2005)

October 23 Breton, *Ode to Fourier* (1947)

Calvino, *Invisible Cities* (1972) and ‘On Fourier’ (1971–3)

October 30 Davenport, ‘Au Tombeau de Charles Fourier’ (1979)

Davenport, *Apples and Pears* (1984)

November 6 Freud, *Totem and Taboo (*1913)

Malinowski, *Sex and Repression in Savage Society* (1927)

Mead, *Coming of Age in Samoa* (1928)

November 13 Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, vol. 1 (1976)

November 20 Godelier, *The Metamorphoses of Kinship* (2004)

December 6 oral presentations of seminar papers

December 12 seminar paper due