

T 500. Tutorial: *A Thousand Plateaus*

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Office hours: Wednesdays 10:00 – 12:00

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Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00, Sun Room

Over the course of two semesters, this weekly reading group will meet to discuss *A Thousand Plateaus* by Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari. One of the seminal texts of post-structuralist theory, *A Thousand Plateaus* proposes an elaborate assemblage of concepts that continue to inform art, politics, and culture: rhizome, nomadology, the body without organs, (de)territorialization.

Frequently cited but perpetually misunderstood, *A Thousand Plateaus* evolves from, and depends on, a complex engagement with the history of Western philosophy, science, and art – even as it encourages the instrumentalization of its ideas. Elaborated from a radical critique of dualism and its most entrenched byproduct, representational thought, *A Thousand Plateaus* systematically challenge its manifestations in philosophy, psychoanalysis, linguistics, and politics, while offering an alternative “image of thought” predicated on difference and becoming.

Based on a close reading of the book in its entirety, as well as supplemental texts by a variety of authors, tutorial participants will discuss, contextualize, and critique these ideas, attending to the milieus from which they arise as well as their active potential for contemporary discourse and praxis.

Required reading:

Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987)

Recommended secondary texts:

Michael Hardt, *Gilles Deleuze: An Apprenticeship in Philosophy*

Ian Buchannan, *Deleuzism: A Metacommentary*

Brian Massumi, *A User's Guide to Capitalism and Schizophrenia*

Francois Dosse, *Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari: Intersecting Lives*