

## TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

### FROM LETTRISM TO THE SITUATIONIST INTERNATIONAL

W 4-6.50, ARTS 1344

The seminar discusses one of the most radical, and influential, experiments in 20th century art, literature, film, and politics - the Situationist International (1957-1972). Founded by Guy Debord ("The Society of the Spectacle"), the SI has a predecessor in certain left wing tendencies within so-called "Lettrism", an artistic and literary movement led by the Romanian-born French poet and visual artist Isidore Isou in 1940, and closely linked to Dada and Surrealism. The seminar will be grouped around key concepts developed by Lettrism and the SI, from "spectacle" to "détournement", "dérive", etc. One of the main emphases will be the relationship between art and politics as it was envisaged by members of the group, as well as the relevance of their ideas today. The seminar will function as a reading group in which participants share their ideas and research.

#### 2. Tentative Schedule

<b>Class Date</b>	<b>Reading I</b>	<b>Reading II</b>
01/08/14		
01/15/14 Introduction Pre-SI (Letterism I+II) Play, Dérive, Détournement		
01/22/14 Urbanism and Architecture		
01/29/14 The SI and arr, before and after 1962		
02/05/14 The SI and Marx/Revolution		
02/12/14		

Cinema (Debord, Constant)		
02/19/14 Cont. The SI and the events of 1968		
02/26/14 The Problem of Everyday Life		
03/05/14 Debord, The Society of Spectacle		
Concluding Discussion/Presentations		