MODERNITY AND ITS DISCONTENT NOTES

- “Time and Space died yesterday. We already live in the absolute, because we have created eternal, omnipresent speed”
- Museums: cemeteries!... Identical, surely, in the sinister promiscuity of so many bodies unknown to one another. Museums: public dormitories where one lies forever beside hated or unknown beings. Museums: absurd abattoirs of painters and sculptors ferociously slaughtering each other with color-blows and line-blows, the length of the fought-over walls!
- Le Figaro- right wing
- “is a manifesto written by the Italian poet Filippo Tommaso Marinetti and published in 1909. Marinetti expresses an artistic philosophy, Futurism, that was a rejection of the past, and a celebration of speed, machinery, violence, youth and industry; it also advocated the modernization and cultural rejuvenation of Italy.”
- Marinetti was a friend of Mussolini
- Starts of with a story of young boys staying up all night
- Continuous thoughts that don’t stop, presented as an adventure
- Humanizing technology “red-hot bellies of locomotives”
- Competing forces of man made and nature
- They hate the ancient world (rome is the capital of the ancient world)
- Treating technology as a SEX OBJECT (RUDE)
- This is all a preface to the manifesto
- The actual manifesto is about “violence and youth”
- The future is also artistic (shows how closely linked politics and arts are)
- Painting by Crali; bombardier of a dive bomber.
- Primordial; returning to the animalistic traits but through technology (in this text)
- Survival of the fittest; competition within society
- Doesn’t want religion
- Problem with futurism is that it uses rational thought to kill the primordial/ non rational thoughts

‘Evil’
- We try to rationalize “evil”
- Milgram Experiment: image of authority figure makes people follow orders.
- We look at the social circumstances of the person (he was alienated etc)
- We look at the individuals ability to socialize (psychology -> obedience)
  - Banality of evil; evil is
- Anthropology (“this religion is like this that’s why they kill etc) (culture)
- Mentality ill
- With Eichmann; he was lost in the rationalization of the system.
MODERNITY AND ITS DISCONTENT NOTES

- Can morality survive in a modern society?
- Can rationalism sustain moralism

Young Goodman Brown (1830)

- Salem (witches)
- His wife didn’t want him to go into the forest; this is a metaphor. Faith is calling him not to go into the forest
- Meets the devil that looks like his grandfather
- Walking on the path “being good”
- He’s reluctant to continue the path
- His journey is to the ceremony
- Goodman brown doesn’t want to go with the devil
- Evil is everywhere
- Human nature is evil, if this is so, how do we read Kant
- The unsocial sociability already takes into account that human nature is evil
- How to resist evil is through faith.
- People reconsider what happens when there’s evil

Nietzsche: on the genealogy of morality (page 11-27 chp 2-13)

- what is it that actually drives these psychologists in precisely this direction all the time? Is it a vicious, malicious, even dishonest desire to belittle humans, which it might well not admit to itself?
- “I sincerely hope that the reverse is true, – that these analysts holding a microscope to the soul are actually brave, generous and proud animals, who know how to control their own pleasure and pain and have been taught to sacrifice desirability to truth, every truth, even a plain, bitter, ugly, foul, unchristian, immoral truth”
- concept ‘good’ has been sought and located in the wrong place by this theory: the judgment ‘good’ does not emanate from those to whom goodness is shown!
- continuing and predominant feeling of complete and fundamental superiority of a higher ruling kind in relation to a lower kind, to those ‘below’ – that is the origin of the antithesis ‘good’ and ‘bad’.
- he judges the concept ‘good’ as essentially the same as ‘useful’, ‘practical’, so that in their judgments ‘good’ and ‘bad’, people sum up and sanction their unforgotten, unforgettable experiences of what is useful-practical, harmful-impractical
  - good is what has always shown itself to be useful: so it can claim validity as ‘valuable in the highest degree’,
- nihilist, god is dead, Nazi fav philosopher, hes a great critic of modernity
- existentialism
MODERNITY AND ITS DISCONTENT NOTES

Prokofiev – dance of the knights

- Shadow is the monster

Note from the underground Part 2

- Part two he's 24 and shows how he got to ‘part 1’
- It’s a justification to why he's an ‘asshole’
- The structure is distorted
- Starts with the shadows (part 1) and moves to the light (part 2)
- Snow is falling
- The poem is very religious -> vice -> prostitute who has fallen and needs to be saved. (Mary Magdalene) Christian motif UNDERLINING
- He goes into the taverns, he's middle class guy. He's walking around looking for something and he finds it in the taverns
- The officer moves him out the way, in which the guy started thinking ways to get back to the officer. He dresses up as the officer and then he sees the officer and finally gets what he wants
- He later goes to a dinner in which he is not wanted (zverkov)
- He had a friend but lost that friend because he was being a tyrant (wanted power over him)
- He goes to simonov's house even though he doesn't like him
- He thinks everyone is against him. His pride is wounded and this later makes him think that
- The conversation with Liza start off with talking about the weather and then later he tyrannizes her.
- “See, Liza, I will tell you about myself. If I had had a home from childhood, I shouldn't be what I am now. I often think that. However bad it may be at home, anyway they are your father and mother, and not enemies, strangers. Once a year at least, they'll show their love of you. Anyway, you know you are at home. I grew up without a home; and perhaps that's why I've turned so ... unfeeling.”
  - You see him talking about his feelings; kind of an autobiography
- Liza is crying and he leaves her the address to his place
- She later comes to him and he has the same reaction he had with the officer towards her
- He treats her like shit, so she hugs him and then she cries and he cries (for a long time)
- “But at this point a strange thing happened. I was so accustomed to think and imagine everything from books, and to picture everything in the world to myself just as I had made it up in my dreams beforehand, that I could not at once take in this strange circumstance. What happened was this: Liza, insulted and crushed by me, understood a great deal more than I imagined. She understood from all this what a woman understands first of all, if she feels genuine love, that is, that I was myself unhappy.”