This course is meant to explore some of the recent directions of radical social theory within, and around, the emergence of the globalization movement and the politics of direct action. As the development of a "permanent global uprising" has been met by an imperial doctrine of "permanent global war", it has become all the more important to begin theorizing what is different and new about this particular historical moment.

The American academy is, currently, in a very particular juncture. For more than a generation now, those who consider themselves cutting-edge radicals have been endlessly recycling French theory of the '70s (rather the intellectual equivalent of "classic rock")—basically, the post-May '68 moment of theorizing the failed insurrection, the collapse a certain sort of hope—activists have been reading a very different series of French theorists, including names like Guy DeBord, Cornelius Castoriadis, Raoul Vaneigem. These were revolutionary theorists from the decade or so immediately prior to '68, and their tradition has been further developed in countries (in Europe, notably Germany and Italy) where insurrectionary communities—squats, social centers—had managed to endure. They are now beginning to inspire creative syntheses with ideas spurring from new forms of radical practice (e.g., consensus process and new forms of direct democracy) pioneered in the anglophone world. The study of such currents tends to challenge many of the usual distinctions not only between theory and practice, but between highbrow and lowbrow, intellectual and popular discourse, and the readings have been self-consciously designed to emphasize the continuities between. The course begins with a famous example of direct action, the shut-down of Seattle meetings of the WTO in November 1999, and examines some of history of the ideas (anarchism, direct action, direct democracy, primitivism) which inspired the different actors. The second section of the course traces the influences of Situationism and related branches of radical theory on the Continent; the last is a series of particular case studies from the "global uprising" which provide particularly revealing conjunctures of new theory with radical forms of practice.
proposal around the middle of it, and a research paper at the end. Or something else if we can work it out. I can be flexible.

**at the bookstore:**
Starhawk: Webs of Power: Notes from the Global Uprising.
Our Word is Our Weapon: writings of Subcomondante Marcos.
Cornelius Castoriadis: The Imaginary Institution of Society.
Crimethinc Collective: "Days of War, Nights of Love: Crimethink for Beginners.
Canada: Crimethinc Ex-Workers Collective."

**PART I: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS NEW AND NOT-SO-NEW**

**Week 1 (January 14): Set up: Seattle, Civil Disobedience, and more militant alternatives**
Acme Collective: N30 Black Bloc Communique
Katsiaficas, The Subversion of Politics, chapters on Germany Autonomen
Voices from the WTO
David Graeber: The Globalization Movement and the New New Left" (in Implicating Empire, 325-338)
video: *This Is What Democracy Looks Like*, and/or *Breaking the Spell*.

**Week 2 (January 21): Background: Classical Anarchism**
Guerin: No Gods No Masters (Readings in Classical Anarchism TBA)

**Week 3 (January 28): Background: Direct Action**
Georges Sorel: "Reflections on Violence"
"Direct Action & Sabotage: Three Classic IWW Pamphlets from the 1910s", ed. Salvatore Salerno, Chalres Kerr Labor Classics
Video: Crowd Bites Wolf.

**Week 4 (February 4): Reinventing Democracy: Spokescouncils, Consensus, the Feminist Backlash against Macho Leadership**
Barbara Epstein: Political Protest and Cultural Revolution.
some web document on how to do consensus/facilitation

**Week 5: (February 11) Chiapas and PGA**
Auroras of the Zapatistas (Autonomedia)
Our Word is Our Weapon: writings of Subcomandante Marcos

**PART II: THEORETICAL CURRENTS OF '68**

**Week 6: (February 18) Cornelius Castoriadis: Revolution as Creative Action**
Cornelius Castoriadis: The Imaginary Institution of Society (selections)
Hans Joas: "Institutionalization as a Creative Process: The Sociological Importance of Cornelius Castoriadis' Political Philosophy" in Pragmatism and Social Theory, Chicago, 1993 (pp154-171)

**Week 7: (February 25) Situationism and its Legacy**
Raoul Vaneigem, The Revolution of Everyday Life
Guy Debord: Society of the Spectacle.
Henry Lefebvre, interview on the Situationists

**Week 8: (March 3) May '68 and the Politics of Failed Revolt**
Peter Starr; Logics of Failed Revolt, French Theory after May '68 (Stanford '95)
Foucault on sovereignty
Todd May: The Political Philosophy of Poststructuralist Anarchism. Penn State Press, 1994
Week 9: (March 24) Culture-Jamming, the Situationist Legacy, and the Politics of Optimism

Crimethinc Collective: "Days of War, Nights of Love: Crimethink for Beginners"
Canada: Crimethinc Ex-Workers Collective.
Bob Black, The Abolition of Work
various Crimethinc material TBA

Week 10: (March 31) Anthropology, Primitivism, the Struggle against Work

Pierre Clastres: Society Against the State (just the title essay)
essay by Joanna Overing on the Piaroa
sample of Zerzan (essay from Future Primitive?)
Freddy Perlman: "Against Leviathan, Against His-Story."
selections from: Gone to Croatan; The Origins of American Dropout Culture.

PART III: FROM AUTONOMIA TO GLOBAL UPRISING

Week 11: (April 7) Autonomia and Radical Theory in Italy

Katsiaficas, chapter on Italian Autonomia

Week 12: (April 14) Paganism, Feminism, and Direct Action Theory

Starhawk: Webs of Power: Notes from the Global Uprising.
selections from Truth or Dare (Starhawk)

Week 13: (April 21) Cracks in the Plate of Empire: Argentina's Autogestion and the Future

Que Se Vayan Todas... (film)
(more material as the situation develops)