

## THE DELANEY DOSSIER: GOFFMAN MATERIALS

1970. Frame Analysis seminar: Excerpts from a class paper dated December 20, 1970, showing EG's penciled markings and comments. Paper title: "The Uncertain Triumph of Surrealism" (intended as a bank shot off Philip Rieff's title, *The Triumph of the Therapeutic*).

Almost all EG's "commentary" was communicated through slight penciled tick marks, checking off passages of particular interest; less often, he added an occasional brief marginal comment, encouraging a trend of thought in one direction as opposed to others. Thus, pages 7 and 39 show EG's marginal comment "interesting" and his characteristic marks. (All pages so marked are included; I redacted a few marginal comments I later added to the typescript.)

EG's comment on the footnote on the bottom of page 47 takes issue with my denial of the genuine "performative" force of baseball fans (as distinct from the umpire) shouting their hope or opinion that a base runner is out. EG's note reads: "but their out has a performative element too, no? — i.e., commitment to emotion." (In this, EG extends the scope of J. L. Austin's original conception of a performative speech-act, in which saying "x" is perforce doing x, as in the marriage vow "I do." He thus reads the term in a way that embraces enacted or emotive *performance* in a "dramaturgical" sense as much as a socially binding authoritative sense.)

EG's concluding comments on page 52 and the backside of that page read as follows:

This paper could be viewed as an effort to treat surrealism as a central prefigurement of the intellectual life to come, but that isn't quite a frame topic. In process some weaknesses are exhibited:

1. A literary focus on individual artists and critical comments made about them by various hands. This is the wrong frame for social science.
2. Very great diffuseness.
3. An over-willingness to rely on popular commentators of no professional status in social science.
4. In consequence, it would be too easy to see the paper as an unorganized outpouring.

Over

5. Moves back and forth between description and high moralizing.
6. Uses technique of formulaic history.

But it has merit.

1. Surrealism is a great topic and its connection to Garfinkel, et al. is useful and new.
2. Material on homosexual camping is very interesting.
3. Could have been on the ironic self view as a key (time on, etc.).

B++

THE UNCERTAIN TRIUMPH OF SURREALISM

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