

Graduate Program in Communication and Culture
Commcult 6100: Theoretical Approaches to Media and Culture, S 2007

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Office hours:

This course explores issues of culture, communication and identity from the perspective of communication and cultural studies after the “spatial turn” of the 1990s. Drawing on foundational and contemporary theorists, the course offers an opportunity to examine complex relations between contemporary communication media, place, identity, culture, technology, and globalization.

Required Books:

David Morley, *Home Territories: Media, Mobility and Identity*. Routledge, 2000
Tony Bennett, Lawrence Grossberg, Meaghan Morris (eds) *New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society*, Blackwell 2005
Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, Vol. 1.
Jim McGuigan, *Culture and the Public Sphere*, Routledge 1996 (as available)
Jody Berland, coursebook 6100 (Summer term)

Recommended books:

Ackbar Abbas and John Nguyet Erni (eds) *Internationalizing Cultural Studies: An Anthology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.
Nick Couldry and Anna McCarthy, *MediaSpace: Place, Scale and Culture in a Media Age*.
Sue Curry Jansen, *Critical Communication Theory: Power, Media, Gender and Technology*
Nicholas Mirzoeff (ed), *The Visual Culture Reader*. 2nd Ed. London and NY: Routledge 2002
Kevin Robins, *Into the Image: Culture and Politics in the Field of Vision*

Course Requirements

Reading Presentations -- 20%

During the term you will be required to lead a class discussion on material assigned and recommended for that day. By 12:00 (noon) on Monday before the seminar, you are asked to make a series of questions and insights available to members of the seminar. You will post your questions and insights on the e-list created for this seminar. In the class presentation, you will facilitate discussion through critical commentary on the material, your thoughts on the implications of the material for media analysis, and

specific questions for seminar discussion. The purpose for these presentations is to stimulate dialogue and initiate an engagement with the texts.

Essay proposal with annotated bibliography -- 20%

The essay proposal with annotated bibliography will be turned in midway through the term, and returned to the student with suggestions and questions. The bibliographies can be circulated and shared as a course bibliography and posted on the course website.

These aspects of coursework are opportunities to treat your projects as collaborative endeavors in which we think together about the substantive issues of the course.

General Participation -- 20% of grade

This reflects your general involvement and participation in the life of the seminar. This grade will be based on attendance, active participation in class and on-line discussions, and a demonstration of mastery of the subject matter.

Major Essay -- 40% of grade

The major essay will be a substantive investigation of some aspect of the course material. It will elaborate aspects of a theoretical dialogue and explore its implications for the analysis of specific media practices.

Schedule of Readings

All reading assignments after the first day are to be completed in advance of the day's discussion. Optional readings are encouraged, and some suggestions have been marked with an asterisk (*).

May 8, 2007. **Introduction: Media culture**

May 10 **Media and Culture**

Raymond Williams, "Culture," "Dominant, Residual" and "Structures of Feeling," *Marxism and Literature*.

"Media," 211-214; "Culture," 63-69, *New Keywords*

John Durham Peters, "The Problem of Communication," Ch 1, *Speaking Into the Air*, 1-31.

May 15 **Space, place and media studies**

Shaun Moores, "The Doubling of Place: Electronic media, time-space arrangements and social relationships" in, pp. 21-36.

Doreen Massey, "A Place Called Home?" *New Formations* 17, 1992, 3-15.

David Morley, *Home Territories: Media, Mobility and Identity*, Introduction, ch. 1-2.

James Carey, "Space, Time and Communications: A Tribute to Harold Innis" in *Communication and Culture: Essays on Media and Society*, Unwin Hyman 1989, 142-172

Recommended:

Nick Couldry and Anna McCarthy, *MediaSpace: Place, Scale and Culture in a Media Age*.

David Harvey, "From space to place and back again: Reflections on the condition of postmodernity" in Jon Bird et al (eds), *Mapping the Futures: Local Cultures, Global Change*, Ch 1, pp 3-29.

May 17 **Subjects in the field of vision**

Nicholas Mirzoeff, "The Subject of Visual Culture," *The Visual Culture Reader* (2nd Ed), Ch 1, pp 3-23.

Zahid Chauhary, "Phantasmagoric Aesthetics: Colonial Violence and the Management of Perception." *Cultural Critique* 59 (2005), 63-119.

Kevin Robins, *Into the Image*, pp 3-59.

Recommended:

Jeff Lewis and Belinda Lewis, "Trial by Ordeal: Abu Ghraib and the Global Mediasphere". *TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*, 16, Spring 2006.

www.yorku.ca/topia

Morley, *Home Territories*, Chapter 8, "Postmodern, virtual and cybernetic geographies," pp 171-203.

May 22 **Colonial and Diasporic Subjects**

David Morley, "Cosmopolitics," *Home Territories* Ch 10, p 225-245.

Franz Fanon, "The Fact of Blackness," *Visual Culture Reader*, pp 129-131.

W.E.B. Dubois, "Double Consciousness" in *Visual Culture Reader*, pp 124-5

Benita Parry, "Directions and Dead Ends in Postcolonial Studies," *Relocating Postcolonialism*, pp. 66-81.

February 24. Spaces of race and ethnicity

Stuart Hall, "Cultural Identity and Diaspora", in Linda McDowell (ed), *Undoing Place?* London: Arnold, 1997, 232-242.

Rey Chow, "The Protestant Ethnic and the Spirit of Capitalism," in *The Protestant Ethnic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, pp. 19-49.

Paul Gilroy, *Against Race: Imagining Political Culture Beyond the Color Line*, Chapters 3 (97-133, 366-8) and 9 (327-358, 388-9).

Recommended:

*Morley, *Home Territories*, chapter 5, pp 105-127.

Jim McGuigan, "Identity, 'Race' and Citizenship" in *Culture and the Public Sphere*, pp. 135-153.

Reading Week

June 5 **Discourse and the Subject**

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, Vol. 1. NY: Vintage Books 1990.
"Discourse," *New Keywords* 91-93

Recommended:

*Louise McNay, "From the Body to the Self" in *Foucault and Feminism*. Cambridge 1992, pp. 48-82.

June 7 **Discourse and Politics**

Tony Bennett, "Cultural Studies: The Foucault Effect" in *Culture: A Reformer's Science*, pp. 60-84.

Jim McGuigan, "Cultural Policy Studies," "Culture and the Public Sphere" in *Culture and the Public Sphere*.

"Knowledge," 195-197, "Power," 274-278, "Self" and "Sexuality," 317-321, *New Keywords*

June 12 **Nation, space, identity**

Benedict Anderson, "Imagined Community" *Nationalism* 89-96

Homi Bhabha "Narrating the Nation" *Nationalism* 306-312

Ian Angus, "The Social Identity of English Canada" *The Border Within*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 1997, pp. 11-47.

Minelle Mahtani and Scott Salmon, "Site Reading? Globalization, Identity and the Consumption of Place in Popular Music" in Allan Gedalof et al, *Cultural Subjects: A Popular Culture Reader*, pp. 146-161.

Recommended:

Homi Babha and John Camaroff, "Speaking of Postcoloniality, in the Continuous Present." In *Relocating Postcolonialism*.

June 14. **Gendering space**

David Morley, *Home Territories*, Chapter 3, "The Gender of Home," and 4, "At Home with the Media" pp 56-104.

Don Mitchell, "Feminism and Cultural Change: Geographies of Gender" in *Cultural Geography* Ch 8, pp. 199-229.

Judy Wajcman, "Virtual Gender" in *Technofeminism* (2004), pp. 8-77

Recommended:

Erica Carter, "Frontier City Berlin: The Post-War Politics" in Ackbar Abbas and John Nguyet Erni (eds) *Internationalizing Cultural Studies: An Anthology*, Blackwell 2005, pp 153-164

Gillian Rose, *Feminism and Geography: The Limits of Geographical Knowledge*, University of Minnesota Press 1993,
Doreen Massey, *Space, Place and Gender*

June 19. **Urban spaces, urban selves**

Kevin Robins, *Into the Image*, Ch 6, "The City in the field of vision," pp 127-146.

David Morley, *Home Territories*, Ch 6, "The media, the city and the suburbs: urban and virtual geographies of exclusion," pp 128-148.

Eric Swyngedouw, "Megabolic urbanization: The making of cyborg cities" in *In the Nature of Cities: Urban Political Ecology and the Politics of Urban Metabolism*, Nik Heynen, Maria Kaika & Erik Swyngedouw (eds) Routledge 2006, pp 21-40

Recommended:

* Jean-Paul Thibaud, "The Sonic Composition of the City" in Michael Bull and Les Back (eds) *The Auditory Culture Reader*, NY Berg, 2003, pp 329-341.

Walter Benjamin, "A Berlin Chronicle" from *One Way Street*, London: New Left Books 1979, pp.293-348

Mike Savage, "Walter Benjamin's Urban Thought" in Mike Crang and Nigel Thrift (eds), *Thinking Space*.

June 21. **Global Spaces, local subjects**

David Morley, *Home Territories* Chapter 10, "Cosmopolitics", pp 225-245.

Tiziana Terranova, "Three Propositions on Informational Cultures," Ch 1, *Network Culture: Politics for the Information Age*, 6-38.

Rey Chow, "The Age of the World Target: Atomic Bombs, Alterity, Area Studies" in *The Age of the World Target*, Duke University Press, 2006, pp 25-43.

Toby Miller, "Television Food" in *Cultural Citizenship: Cosmopolitanism, Consumerism, and Television in a Neoliberal Age*. Temple University Press, 2007, 27-

Recommended

*Kevin Robins, *Into the Image*, chapters 5, 7.

*S. Sassen (2001). "Spatialities and Temporalities of the Global: Elements for a Theorization" in A. Appadurai (ed) *Globalization*. Duke U Press pp 260-278

Doreen Massey, "A global sense of place," in Gray and McGuigan, *Studying Culture*, pp 232-240.

Course bibliography

- Abbas, Ackbar and John Nguyet Erni (eds) *Internationalizing Cultural Studies: An Anthology*, Blackwell 2005.
- Appadarai, A. *Globalization*.
- Barglow, Raymond. *The Crisis of the Self in the Age of Information: Computers, Dolphins and Dreams*. Routledge 1994.
- Baumann, Zygmunt. *Globalization*.
- Bennett, Tony. *Culture: A Reformer's Science*.
- Bird, Jon et al (eds), *Mapping the Futures: Local Cultures, Global Change*
- Buchanan, Ian and G Lambert (eds), *Deleuze and Space*. U. of Toronto Press, 2005.
- Burnett, Ron. *How Images Think*
- Bull, Michael and Les Back (eds) *The Auditory Culture Reader*. Berg, 2003
- Carey, James. *Communication as Culture*.
- Chow, Rey. *The Age of the World Target: Self-Referentiality in War, Theory, and Comparative Work*.
- *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.
- Couldry, Nick and Anna McCarthy (eds), *MediaSpace: Place, Scale and Culture in a Media Age*.
- Crang, Mike and Nigel Thrift (eds), *Thinking Space*
- Cultural Studies* Vol. 18 No. 2/3 (2004). *Rethinking Everyday Life*.
- Fanon, Franz. *Black Skin, White Masks*.
- Featherstone, Mike (ed) *Spaces of Culture*
- Foucault, Michel. *History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*. Vintage Books 1990.
- *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings*
- Friesen, Gerard. *Citizen and Nation. An Essay on History, Communications, Canada*
- Gedalof, Allan J, Jonathan Boulter, Joel Faflak and Cameron McFarlane (eds), *Cultural Subjects: A Popular Culture Reader*. Nelson, 2005.
- Gergen, Kenneth. *The Saturated Self: Dilemmas of Identity in Contemporary Life*.
- Gilroy, Paul. *Against Race: Imagining Political Culture Beyond the Color Line*. Harvard University Press 2000.
- Goldberg, David Theo and Ato Quason (eds), *Relocating Colonialism*. Blackwell 2002.
- Gray, Ann and Jim McGuigan (eds) *Studying Culture: An Introductory Reader*. Edward Arnold, 1993.
- Herman, Andrew and Thomas Swiss, *Contemporary Cultural Theory and the World Wide Web*. Routledge, 2003.
- Heynen, Nik, Maria Kaika & Erik Swyngedouw (eds) *In the Nature of Cities: Urban Political Ecology and the Politics of Urban Metabolism*, Routledge 2006,
- Innis, Harold. *Staples, Markets and Cultural Change*. McGill-Queen's 2000
- Jansen, Sue Curry., *Critical Communication Theory: Power, Media, Gender and Technology*
- Lefebvre, Henri. *The Critique of Everyday Life*. London and NY: Verso 1991.
- *The Production of Space*.
- Leistyna, Pepi. *Cultural Studies From Theory to Action*. Blackwell 2005.
- Mattelart, Armand and Michele Mattelart, *Rethinking Media Theory*. Trans. James Cohen and Marina Urquidi. Minnesota 1992.

McGuigan, Jim. *Culture and the Public Sphere*. London and NY: Routledge, 1996.
 McNay, Louise. *Foucault and Feminism*. Cambridge University Press.
 Mellencamp, Patricia (ed). *Logics of Television: Essays in Cultural Criticism*.
 Miller, Toby. *Cultural Citizenship: Cosmopolitanism, Consumerism, and Television in a Neoliberal Age*. Temple University Press, 2007.
 Mitchell, Don. *Cultural Geography: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000.
 Moss, Laura. *Is Canada Postcolonial?* Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2002
 Parks, Lisa. *Cultures in Orbit*. Duke University Press, 2003.
 Robins, Kevin. *Into the Image: Culture and Politics in the World of Vision*.
 Rose, Gillian. *Feminism and Geography: The Limits of Geographical Knowledge*,
 Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993
 Terranova, Tiziana. *Network Culture: Politics for the Information Age*.
 Virilio, Paul. *War and Cinema*
 Wacjman, Judy. *Technofeminism*.
 Williams, Raymond. *Problems in Materialism and Culture*
 --- *Marxism and Literature*
 Willis, Susan. *A Primer for Daily Life*. London and NY: Routledge, 1991.

Journals

Canadian Journal of Communication
 Continuum - Journal of Media & Cultural Studies
 Critical Arts- A Journal of South-North Cultural and Media Studies
 Critical Studies in Mass Communication
 C Theory
 Cultural Politics
 Cultural Studies
 Culture Machine
 International Journal of Cultural Studies
 Journal of Communication Inquiry
 Journal of Feminist Media Studies
 Media, Culture and Society
 New Media and Society
 Postcolonial Studies
 Postcolonial Text
 Positions - East Asia Cultures Critique
 Postmodern Culture
 Public Culture
 Signs
 Social Text
 Space and Culture
 Theory, Culture and Society
 Third Text
 TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies

