Graduate Program in Communication and Culture  
Comm'cult 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:**
Tony Bennett, Lawrence Grossberg, Meaghan Morris (eds) *New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society*, Blackwell 2005
Jim McGuigan, *Culture and the Public Sphere*, Routledge 1996 (as available)
Jody Berland, coursebook 6100 (Summer term)

**Recommended books:**
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*  
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*

**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.

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.


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

Recommended:

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

May 22  Colonial and Diasporic Subjects


February 24.  Spaces of race and ethnicity


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.

**Reading Week**

**June 5  Discourse and the Subject**


Recommended:

**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*.

**June 12  Nation, space, identity**

Benedict Anderson, “Imagined Community” *Nationalism* 89-96
Homi Bhabha “Narrating the Nation” *Nationalism* 306-312

Recommended:
Homi Babha and John Camaroff, “Speaking of Postcoloniality, in the Continuous Present.” In *Relocating Postcolonialism*.

**June 14  Gendering space**

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:
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.

Recommended:
Mike Savage, “Walter Benjamin’s Urban Thought” in Mike Crang and Nigel Thrift (eds), Thinking Space.

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

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

Recommended
*Kevin Robins, Into the Image, chapters 5, 7.
Course bibliography

Appadarai, A. Globalization.
Bennett, Tony. Culture: A Reformer’s Science.
Bird, Jon et al (eds), Mapping the Futures: Local Cultures, Global Change
Burnett, Ron. How Images Think
Carey, James. Communication as Culture.
Chow, Rey. The Age of the World Target: Self-Referentiality in War, Theory, and Comparative Work.
----- The Protestant Ethnic and the Spirit of Capitalism.
Coulndry, 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
--- Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings
Friesen, Gerard. Citizen and Nation. An Essay on History, Communications, Canada
Goldberg, David Theo and Ato Quason (eds), Relocating Colonialism. Blackwell 2002.
Heynen, Nik, Maria Kaika & Erik Swyngedouw (eds) In the Nature of Cities: Urban Political Ecology and the Politics of Urban Metabolism, Routledge 2006,
Jansen, Sue Curry., Critical Communication Theory: Power, Media, Gender and Technology
----- The Production of Space.
Mellencamp, Patricia (ed). *Logics of Television: Essays in Cultural Criticism.*
Moss, Laura. *Is Canada Postcolonial?* Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2002
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*

**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