

Syllabus: Spectacle and Surveillance, Winter 2015

Instructors: W. J. T. Mitchell: wjtm@uchicago.edu; Office: Wieboldt 203; hours, Tuesdays 2-3:30.

Bernard Harcourt: Columbia University; bernard.harcourt@columbia.edu Office, Hours TBA.

Course Assistant: Nova Smith: nova@uchicago.edu; Office hours: TBA

Class Meetings: Mondays, 2:30-5:20 plus evening hours for film screenings. Except for the first class meeting on January 5, all sessions will be videoconferenced with a parallel seminar at Columbia University in New York

Course Requirements: Each week, two students will present response statements (5-10 minutes) to the readings, providing a critical introduction and discussion questions. Each week two students will be invited to make a 15 minute presentation of their research project. A final research paper of 15-25 pages will be due

O. January 5:

George Orwell, *1984* (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1949)

Dave Eggers, *The Circle* (New York: Random House, 2013)

I. January 12: NSA Surveillance and the Snowden Affair

Readings:

Glenn Greenwald, *No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA, and the U.S. Surveillance State* (2014).

Yasha Levine, "The Psychological Dark Side of Gmail: Google is using its popular Gmail service to build profiles on the hundreds of millions of people who use it," *AlterNet.org*, December 31, 2013 (first appeared in *PandoDaily*), available at <http://www.alternet.org/media/google-using-gmail-build-psychological-profiles-hundreds-millions-people>

Siva Vaidhyanathan, *The Googlization of Everything (And Why We Should Worry)* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011) (Chapter 1)

Film Pod:

Laura Poitras' *Citizen Four* (2014). Possible outing to Wilmette for screening.

Optional Litigation Portfolio

American Civil Liberties Union, et al. v. James R. Clapper, et al., 13 Civ. 3994 (2013), accessed March 11, 2014,
<http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/clapper.pdf>.

Klayman et al. v. Obama et al., 13 Civ. 0851 (2013), accessed March 11, 2014,
<http://legaltimes.typepad.com/files/obamansa.pdf>.

The President's Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies, *Liberty and Security in a Changing World*, by Richard A. Clarke, et al., 2013, accessed March 11, 2014,
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/interactive/2013/dec/18/nsa-review-panel-report-document>.

Optional Additional Readings:

Articles at the UK Guardian : <http://www.theguardian.com/world/the-nsa-files>

James Bamford, "They Know Much More Than You Think" *New York Review of Books*, August 2013:
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2013/aug/15/nsa-they-know-much-more-you-think/>

Jill Lepore, "The Prism: Privacy in an age of publicity," *The New Yorker*, June 24, 2013:
http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2013/06/24/130624fa_fact_lepore

Margaret Sullivan, "Lessons in a Surveillance Drama Redux" *New York Times*, Nov. 9, 2013
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/10/public-editor/sullivan-lessons-in-a-surveillance-drama-redux.html? r=0>

II. January 26: Michel Foucault & Panoptic Surveillance

Readings:

Michel Foucault. 1975. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* – Part III & IV: pages 135 – 308.

Film Pod: TBD

Further Readings

Michel Foucault. 1974. "Michel Foucault on Attica: An Interview with John K. Simon," *Social Justice*, Vol. 18, No. 3 (45), Attica: 1971—1991 A Commemorative Issue (Fall 1991), pp. 26-34 ("A propos de la prison d'Attica. Entretien avec Simon, J. K. *Telos*, n° 19, printemps, pp. 154-161 ; *Dits et Ecrits II*, Texte n° 137).

Michel Foucault. 1978. "About the Concept of the 'Dangerous Individual' in Nineteenth-century Legal Psychiatry," pages 176-200 in *Power* (Volume III) [also in *Dits et écrits III*, #220].

III. February 9:

The Art of Counter-Surveillance

Rebecca Zorach, to visit the seminar on February 9 to talk about Trevor Paglen and the art of counter-surveillance—i.e., the way artists have found ways to "look back" at the technologies and systems of surveillance.

Readings: TBA

IV. February 16: Gilles Deleuze & Societies of Control

Readings:

Gilles Deleuze, "Postscript on Control Societies," [1990] *October*, vol. 59 (Winter 1992), p. 3-7.

Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus – Capitalism and Schizophrenia* [1972], trans. Robert Hurley, Mark Seem, and Helen Lane (New York: Viking Press, 1977).

Interview of Gilles Deleuze, "Foucault and Prison" [1985] in *Two Regimes of Madness: Texts and Interviews 1975-1995*. Cambridge: Semiotext.

Film Pod:

Minority Report (2002, Stephen Spielberg)

V. February 23: W.J.T. Mitchell & The Spectacle Today

Readings:

W.J.T. Mitchell, "The Spectacle Today: A Response to RETORT," *Public Culture*, Volume 20: Issue 3, p. 573-582 (2009); revised version to appear in *Image Science* (Chicago, forthcoming) will be available in course documents.

W.J.T. Mitchell, *Picture Theory* (excerpts)

W.J.T. Mitchell, "Showing Seeing," in *What Do Pictures Want*

Guy Debord & the Spectacle

Readings:

Guy Debord, *Society of the Spectacle*

Film Pod: *La societe du spectacle* (1973, Guy Debord)

Optional Additional Readings:

Louis Aragon, *A Treatise on Style* (?)

Baudrillard on the simulacra

Keally McBride, "Consuming Community," "and "Utopian Vision as Commodity Fetish," in *Collective Dreams: Political Imagination and Community* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2005) p. 86-120.

VI. March 2: B.E. Harcourt & the Expository Society

Readings:

B.E. Harcourt, *The Expository Society*

Film Pod: TBD

VII. March 9: Conclusions & Final Reports

Final Papers Due: March 16th

Potential Films to Screen: Volunteers to curate these films will be welcome.

We Steal Secrets: The Story of WikiLeaks (2013) A documentary that details the creation of Julian Assange's controversial website, which facilitated the largest security breach in U.S. history.

The Fifth Estate (2013, Bill Condon) Julian Assange and Wikileaks. A dramatic thriller based on real events that reveals the quest to expose the deceptions

and corruptions of power that turned an Internet upstart into the 21st century's most fiercely debated organization.

Ivan the Terrible (1945, Sergei Eisenstein). Banned by Stalin for its expose of total surveillance.

Red Squad (1972 An Independent documentary investigating the surveillance activities of the New York City Police Department and the FBI.

Surveillance: Who's Watching? (1971, Sucher & Fischler) An investigation of police surveillance of political dissidents around the country. Produced for National Educational Television.

Surveillance City (in production, Joel Sucher and Steven Fischler)

The 1,000 Eyes of Dr. Mabuse (1960, Fritz Lang)

The Conversation (1974, Francis Ford Coppola) A paranoid, secretive surveillance expert has a crisis of conscience when he suspects that a couple he is spying on will be murdered.

The End of Violence. (Wim Wenders, 1997)

The Lives of Others (2006, Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck) in 1984 East Berlin, an agent of the secret police, conducting surveillance on a writer and his lover, finds himself becoming increasingly absorbed by their lives.

Other possible films: *Blowout* (1981, Brian de Palma); *Cache* (2005, Michael Hanneke); *Total Recall* (2012); *Rear Window* (1954, Hitchcock); *Sleep Dealer* (2008, Alex Rivera); *Source Code* (2011, Duncan Jones); *The Bourne Legacy*; *The Bourne Trilogy*.