

Mitchell: Fall 1995 Seminar on "The Eye and The Gaze"

October 2: Introduction

October 9: Fundamentals of Lacanian/Freudian visuality: the drive in the scopic field; imaginary/symbolic and scopic/vocative; pictorial turns and metapictures

Readings: Lacan, "The Eye and the Gaze," from Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis; Mitchell, Picture Theory, chs. 1-3

October 16 and 23: From Repetition to Visuality

Readings: Freud, from Interpretation of Dreams: ch. 7: the dream of the burning child; "Regression"; "The Psycho-Analytic View of Psychogenic Disturbance of Vision" (1910); "Recollection, Repetition, and Working Through" (1914); "The Instincts and their Vicissitudes" (1915); "Beyond the Pleasure Principle" (1920); "Fetishism" (1927)

October 30: The Philosophy of the Specular Subject

Readings: Plato, Republic Bk. 10; Aristotle, Physics, on tyche and automaton; Descartes, Optics; Diderot, Letter on the Blind; Kierkegaard, Repetition

November 6: The Phenomenology of the Gaze

Readings: Sartre, "The Look," from Being and Nothingness; Merleau-Ponty, "The Eye and the Mind" and "The Chiasm" from The Visible and the Invisible

November 13: Mimicry and Perspective

Readings: Roger Caillois, The Mask of Medusa; Jurgis Baltrusaitis, Anamorphic Art; Elkins on Lacanian perspective; Mitchell on animals and illusion, Picture Theory ch. 10.

November 20 and 27: The Eye and Gaze Illustrated

Durer's Lucinda; Rouault; Munch; Ensor; Kubin; Leonardo; Cezanne; Caravaggio's Bacchus; Zeuxis, Parrhasios and the problem of trompe-l'oeil; Byzantine icons; idolatry and iconoclasm; surrealism and montage; impressionism, expressionism, and the gesture; Dutch and Flemish landscape; paintings in the Doges' palace; film of Matisse; Goya; Dali; Masson;

December 4: Conclusions