

Art 358/English 326: Visual Culture: Spring 1999

Lectures: MW 3-4:20 PM CWAC 157 (Art History Building)

Small group discussions: Fridays: place & time TBA

Screenings: Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30 (CWAC)

Wednesdays 7-10 PM (Cobb 307)

Instructors:

W. J. T. Mitchell

Office: Wieboldt 203

Hours: TTH 2-3

Maki Fukuoka, Art History (mfukuoka@midway.uchicago.edu)

Hours:

Carrie Yury, English (ceyury@midway.uchicago.edu)

Hours:

Required Texts:

Michel Foucault, [This Is Not a Pipe](#)

Martin Jay, [Downcast Eyes](#)

W. J. T. Mitchell, [Picture Theory](#)

[October](#), no. 77, on Visual Culture (copies on reserve)

Recommended Texts:

Norman Bryson, Michael Ann Holly, and Keith Moxey, [Visual Culture: Images and Interpretations](#)

Hal Foster, ed., [Vision and Visuality](#)

Chris Jenks, ed. [Visual Culture](#)

W. J. T. Mitchell, [Iconology](#)

\_\_\_\_\_, [The Last Dinosaur Book](#) (available at 30% off from Amazon.com)

Requirements:

"Show and Tell" presentation on visual culture: Tuesdays, 4/6 and 4/13.

Entry in Visual Culture Commonplace Book: submit entry by 4/5; 1 page essay due 4/21

Midterm Exam: 5/10

Final Paper or take-home essay exam: 6/11

Note: attendance is strictly required at all lectures and screenings; unexcused absences will affect your grade. Attendance is highly recommended at small group discussions.

Texts are from course packet unless otherwise indicated.

First Week: What Is Visual Culture?

M (3/29): main text: handout: Exodus 32: The Golden Calf

T (3/30) [Do the Right Thing](#)

W (3/31): main text: Bryson et al., "Introduction" to [Visual Culture](#); Mitchell, "Interdisciplinarity and Visual Culture"; [October](#) questionnaire on visual culture

Supplementary readings: Intro. and ch. 13 on "Do the Right Thing" in Picture Theory;

Second Week: What Is a Visual Medium?

M (4/5): main texts: Benjamin, "The Work of Art"; Greenberg, "Avant Garde and Kitsch"

T (4/6): 4:30-6:30 Show and Tell

W (4/7): main text: Andreas Huyssen, "Escape from Amnesia: The Museum as Mass Medium"; lecture by Maki Fukuoka

Third Week: What Is an Image?

M (4/12): Plato's "Allegory of the Cave"; Deleuze, "The Simulacrum and Ancient Philosophy"; Wittgenstein on the Duck-Rabbit

T (4:30-6:30): Show & Tell

W (4/14): Erwin Panofsky, "Iconography and Iconology"; C. S. Peirce, "Icon, Index, and Symbol"

Supplementary readings: "What Is an Image?" in Iconology; "Metapictures" in Picture Theory; David Lindbergh, "Ancient Optical Theory"; Martin Jay, Ch. 1.

Fourth Week: The Boundaries of the Visible

M (4/19): main text: Michel Foucault, This is Not a Pipe

T: Sunset Boulevard

W (4/21): main text: Deleuze, "The Visible and the Articulable"; Mitchell, "Word and Image" (course packet)

Supplementary readings: "Ekphrasis and the Other" and "Narrative, Memory and Slavery," in Picture Theory; Jay, ch. 7

Fifth Week: What Is Vision (I)?

M (4/26): main texts: David Lindbergh, "Ancient Theories of Vision"; Descartes, "Optics"; Diderot, from "Letter on the Blind"; Berkeley, "A New Theory of Vision"; Oliver Sacks, "To See and Not See"

T (4/27): Videodrome

W (4/28): main text: Merleau-Ponty, "The Eye and the Mind"; Sartre, "The Look"

Supplementary readings: Jay on Descartes, Merleau-Ponty, and Sartre.

Sixth Week: What Is Vision (II)?

M (5/3): Lacan, "The Eye and the Gaze"; Freud, "The Uncanny"; "Psychogenic Disturbance of Vision"

T (5/4): TBA

W (5/5): Lacan, "The Eye and the Gaze"

Supplementary readings: Jay on Lacan

Seventh Week:

M (5/10): Midterm Exam

T (5/11): No screening

W (5/12): Review and discussion of exam

Eighth Week: Race and Gender in the Visual Field

M (5/17): Franz Fanon, "Algeria Unveiled"; Winifred Woodhull, "Unveiling Algeria"

T (5/18): M Butterfly (read Teresa de Lauretis on "Femininity and Fetishism")

W (5/19): Alan Sekula, "On the Invention of Photographic Meaning"; lecture by Carrie Yury, "Gender and the Invention of Photographic Meaning"

Supplementary readings: Jay, ch. 9 on "Phallogocularcentrism."

Ninth Week: Spectacle and Surveillance

M (5/24): Paul Virilio, from War and Cinema

T (5/25): Wag the Dog

W (5/26): Guy Debord, Society of the Spectacle

Supplementary: Mitchell, "From CNN to JFK" in Picture Theory; Foucault, "Panopticism" in Discipline and Punish (on reserve).

Tenth Week: What Do Pictures Want?

M (6/7): Donna Haraway, "Teddy Bear Patriarchy"; Mitchell, "What Do Pictures Want?" in October 77; "The Totem Animal of Modernity" in The Last Dinosaur Book (on reserve).

T (6/8): Jurassic Park or King Kong.

W (6/9) Conclusions