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 (cejury@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?

    T (3/30) Do the Right Thing
Supplementary readings: Intro. and ch. 13 on "Do the Right Thing" in Picture Theory;

Second Week: What Is a Visual Medium?

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

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)?

T (4/27): Videodrome

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

Sixth Week: What Is Vision (II)?

T (5/4): TBA

Supplementary readings: Jay on Lacan

Seventh Week:

M (5/10): Midterm Exam
T (5/11): No screening
Eighth Week: Race and Gender in the Visual Field

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

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?

T (6/8): Jurassic Park or King Kong.
W (6/9) Conclusions