MCC-GE 2406 Special Topics in Visual Culture and Cultural Studies:

Semiotics of Media, Art and Performance

Prof. Lily Chumley

Course Description:

This course will explore semiotics and performance theory by comparing the modes of performance used in media (including television, film, radio, advertising, theater, music and visual art) with social performance in everyday life. Readings will draw from classic and contemporary work in semiotics, performance theory and linguistic anthropology, analyzing media and art forms from around the world. Students will engage with the theoretical concepts and analytical models encountered in class by applying them to a media form, performance or piece of art of their own choosing.

Week 1 Overture
Introductions, review of the course plan, theories of the sign.

Week 2 Theater, Art and Mediation

Week 3 Semiotics (Saussure vs. Peirce) and Indexicality

Week 4 Performance and Performativity

Week 5 Roles, Characters, Voices, Masks

Week 6 Animation

Week 7 Scripts and Props (Entextualization and Co-textualization)

Week 8 Iconism: Diagram and Depiction

Week 9 Intermission: Review, Reframe, Rejoinders

Week 10 Audiences and Participation Roles

Week 11 Breakthrough into Performance

Week 12 Mediation and Remediation

Week 13 Conclusion: Everyday Performances

Week 14 Presentations