The Politics of the Gaze: Sensory Formations of Modernity
E38.2180 MONDAYS SILVER 402 04:55pm - 07:05pm

The mediatization and technological development of vision and its dominance over the human sensorium is integral to the emergence of the modern, including experiences of urbanism, consumer desire, spatial experience, gender/sexual identities, race and ethnicity, trans-cultural image systems, aesthetic production and the making of power and political truth claims. This seminar will focus on introducing participants to the core theories and analytic methods of visual culture, and the socio-political history of the human sensorium in a variety of disciplines, including ethnography, social history, urban studies, cinema studies, social geography, material culture studies and media studies. The seminar will conduct a multi-site exploration of “the gaze” as an everyday life structure, as the sensorial formation of modern experience and personhood, as a material culture of simulation, as spatiality, as historical memory, as trans-cultural signification and as the production of political scenography.

Seminar Requirements and Grading:
- Consistent attendance and participation in class discussion: 10%
- Mid-Term: 25%
- End Term Take Home Essay Exam 2 Questions 65%

Course Resource Materials:
Course Documents Section Blackboard Course Site.

Learning Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete the course will be able to demonstrate:

- advanced understanding of research methodologies, vocabularies and procedures appropriate to M.A. level work in
Media Studies and Visual Culture

- advanced skills in the application of critical and interpretive vocabularies
- Learn to write a critical literature review
- developed research, writing and communication skills
- self-reflexivity as a research practitioner
- developed ability in identifying and addressing research objectives
- knowledge of a range of specific critical vocabularies, debates and concerns focused on visual communication, visual culture, media, technology, and cultural studies.

9/11 Materializing Media and Vision

Bennet, Tony Grossberg, Larry, Morris Meaghan (2005) The New Keywords Blackwell Publishing, Read all entries before first class


Harvey, David, 1989 The Time and Space of the Enlightenment Project. In Conditions of Postmodernity Basil Blackwell

9/18 Geography of the Gaze


9/25 The Cutting Image


10/2 **Piercing and Cutting the Body**


10/9 **School Holiday- No Class!**

10/16 **The Image Fragmented**


**Take Home Mid Term Exam Essay Questions Distributed on 10/16; Exams due back 10/23**

10/23- 10/30 **The Urbanization of the Eye**


**11/6 Mass Media as Social Hieroglyph**


Hansen Miriam, 1992 Mass Culture as Hieroglyphic Writing: Adorno, Derrida Kracauer, New German Critique, no.56 Spring-Summer

Heidegger, Martin, 1976. The Age of the World View, boundary 2 no. 4

**11/13 –11/20 The Othering Gaze**


**End Term Take Home Essay Exam Questions Distributed**

**11/27 Mirrors of Identity**


**12/4 Mediatization of Violence**

Doherty, Brigid 1997. *We are All Neurasthenics” or, The Trauma of Dada Montage*” Critical Inquiry 24 (Autumn.


**12/11 Final Class: Class Review**


**12/18 Exam Week Take Home Exams Due**