E58.2100 Media Criticism I
Mark Crispin Miller
Monday 7:15 – 9:25 pm
Call number: 42635 (4 points)

Analysis of the media environment from a variety of critical perspectives. Emphasis is on writing as well as reading media criticism.

[MA Areas of Study: Persuasion and Politics and Cultural and Visual Studies]

E58.2135 Media, Memory, and History
Marita Sturken
Wednesday 4:55 – 7:05 pm
Call number: 40779 (4 points)

This course examines the relationship of visual media to the production of historical narratives and cultural memory. It defines media in a broad sense, looking in particular at photography, film, television and forms of new media in relation to the scholarship on historiography and memory studies. The course will address questions such as: What role has the photograph played in concepts of modern history? How are historical narratives told through the media of film and television? What issues are raised by the form of the historical docudrama? How is cultural memory produced and circulated through television and film and photography? What is the difference between history and cultural memory?

[MA Area of Study: Cultural and Visual Studies]

E58.2138 Politics of Digital Media
Gabriella Coleman
Wednesday 4:55 – 7:05 pm
Call number: 43200 (4 points)

This seminar examines various political features and scales concerning networked technologies—from the informal to the formal—in relationship to three different though overlapping categories: the politics of regulation and architecture (domain name registration, filtering, protocols, censorship, ICANN), the politics of hacking (transgression, intellectual property law and free software, etc.), and finally explicit grassroots and media activism that makes heavy use of digital media and networked technologies (Indymedia, Tactical media, Burma protests etc.). Students will be introduced to and interrogate a number of political theories about democracy, liberalism, social movements, and neoliberalism as they assess the politics of technology. By the end of the course students should be familiar with an array of political questions and tactics that emerge out of the use, invention, circulation, dissemination and production of networked technologies. We will pay close attention to the ways in which technology is at once imagined as an agent of political change and contrasts this with how these technologies work to enable and curtail various political possibilities.

[MA Area of Study: Technology and Society and Politics and Persuasion]

E58.2173 Research for Communication Professionals
Robert Maxwell
Monday 7:15 – 9:25 pm
Call number: 42639 (4 points)

This course is intended to familiarize you with the types and methods of research conducted, assessed, and applied by professionals in the communication industries and to foster critical thinking about contemporary issues in public opinion and consumer research. Students will conduct a research project.


Bob Maxwell has worked in consumer research for twenty-seven years. Bob started his career in 1976 with ABC Entertainment. After two years, he joined HBO where he started and ran the research department until leaving the company in 1998. Bob holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the department of communications and culture at New York University and a B.J. from the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri. In addition to leading 12 Americans, Bob is President of Chelsea Media, a New York-based consulting firm; he also serves on the staff at NYU as an adjunct professor teaching several courses in media usage, media effects, and research.

[MA Area of Study: Interaction and Social Processes]
The focus of this course is the analysis of our contemporary image-based mass culture. The mass mind is a metaphor that describes the various sources that have produced these artifacts of contemporary culture. So, the “what” of the mass mind is located in and around the culture industries that develop, produce and distribute the images, narratives, sounds and events that create the fabric of everyday life. Two major questions dominate the semester: How have we tried to understand this mass culture in the past? And, how do modern scholars try to explain this culture today? In past versions of this course we have studied the sitcom and the various sub-genres of television including advertising. We have studied the Superbowl and other forms of media events, standup comedy, talk show culture, nineteenth and twentieth century minstrelsy, men’s and women’s magazine culture, Shakespeare in popular culture, and, of course, contemporary music – from Bing Crosby to Ludacris.


[MA Area of Study: Cultural and Visual Studies]

E58.2201 Mediating the Bio-political Body
Allen Feldman
Monday 4:55 – 7:05 pm
Call number: 42636 (4 points)

This seminar seeks to build media theory within the material histories, philosophy and political culture of embodiment/disembodiment. The body is situated as the interface of our era’s most contentious political terrains including human rights violations, epidermal stigma, gendered gazes, targeting gazes, and confinement in refugee, detention, torture and concentration camps. For Foucault the formation of the political subject is isomorphic to the formation of the body as a communicative, mediating and mediated site. The body has become the screen, the archive and the stylus for political inscription and encryption. For Foucault, Agamben and Esposito the political is concerned with producing forms of life as biopower-- the governing of life and death through subject forming and deforming body-media from surveillance to violence. Previously Hegel, Kojève, Lacan and Fanon theorized political domination as the spectral occupation and remediation of one body by another. Derrida described the current war on terror as the shift from communitas to immunitas, to auto-co-immunity in which the body-politic sacrifices its actuality to protect itself as virtuality. In the above theories the body unfolds as the place where our current historical actuality originates and culminates in a politics of somatic virtuality. We will examine the body as a political semiotechnique, as material support for political ideology and spectacle and as enabled/disabled by techno-political prosthetics and as the means of political virtualization. We will track several orienting genealogies of the body that roughly run from Hegel and Kojève to Lacan and Fanon; from Spinoza, Nietzsche and Heidegger, to Deleuze, Foucault, Agamben, Esposito and Derrida; from Merleau-Ponty to Lefort and Ranciere. Among the themes to be explored are: exposability and disposability of the body; torture, embodied witnessing and truth; postcolonial typographies of the body; second bodies, subversive mimesis and political virtuality; political animality and monstrosity; communicable and excommunicated bodies; political violence as auto-immunization.

[MA Area of Study: Cultural and Visual Studies]

E58.2206 Dis/ability Studies: Art, Media, Philosophy
Nicholas Mirzoeff
Thursday 6:20 - 9:00 pm
Call number: 43326 (4 credits)

Introduction to the concepts used in the new interdisciplinary field of disability studies. This seminar will be a joint exploration of the necessarily connected experience and representation of dis/ability, embodiment and the 'normal' in modern Western culture. It centers on questions of dis/ability in the three fields at three critical interfaces, namely the formation of Western rationality in the seventeenth century; the generalization and medicalization of the concept of the "normal" in the nineteenth century; and the emergence of dis/ability as a new form of identity in the past forty years.

[MA Area of Study: Cultural and Visual Studies]

E58.2215 Social Experiences in Consumer Culture
Brett Gary
Wednesday 2:00 – 4:10 pm
Call number: 42818 (4 points)

This course takes an historical approach to the question of consumer culture in America, by focusing on important shifts in population, production, technology and lifestyles over the 19th and 20th centuries. It will follow not only material changes in consumer culture but also the debates that circulate around them. Specific attention will be given to how consumption intersects with class, gender, race, space, youth, work, leisure and activism.

Readings include selections by Thorstein Veblen, Mary Douglas, Susan Strasser, Stewart Ewen, John Fiske, William Leach, Juliet Schor, Lisa Jacobson, Lizabeth Cohen, Elizabeth Chin, Pierre Bordieu, and Jean Baudrillard.

[MA Area of Study: Cultural and Visual Studies]
E58.2220 Communication and the Culture Industries
Aram Sinnreich
Thursday 4:55 – 7:05 pm
Call number: 42638 (4 points)

This course will examine the economic, political and social dimensions of the "culture industries" – such as news, music, film, TV, radio and new media. We will employ a diverse range of methodologies, explore a broad variety of theories, and discuss the impact of today's most significant issues, such as globalization, digitization, and "convergence." Course texts will include both primary and secondary resources, and assignments will include both in-class presentation and end-of-semester research papers.

[MA Area of Study: Cultural and Visual Studies and Technology and Society]

E58.2225 World Communication: Principles, Politics and Law
Stefaan Verhulst
Thursday 4:55 – 7:05 pm
Call number: 40788 (4 points)

Examines the legal, regulatory, and political mechanisms, both national and supra-national, that affect the flow of media, information and cultural products across borders and the interplay between these mechanisms and the conduct of global communication.

Stefaan G. Verhulst is the Chief of Research at the Markle Foundation, a New York-based private philanthropy that focuses on using information and communications technologies to address critical public needs. Mr. Verhulst was also the founder and director of the Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy (PCMLP) at Oxford University as well as senior research fellow at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies. In addition, he was the Unesco Chairholder in Communications Law and Policy for the UK and founder and co-director of the International Media and info-comms Policy and Law studies (IMPS) at the School of Law, University of Glasgow. Mr. Verhulst has served as consultant to various international and national organizations including the Council of Europe, European Commission, Unesco, UNDP, USAID and DFID. He is also the founder and editor of the International Journal of Communications Law and Policy and the Communications Law in Transition Newsletter.

[MA Area of Study: Global and Transcultural Communication]

E58.2235 Media, Culture & Communication Internship
Sandra Criscione

The internship program promotes the integration of academic theory with practical experience. Internships expand student understandings of the dynamics of the ever-changing field of communication. See http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/dcc/internships for registration information.

E58.2286 Young People and Media Cultures
JoEllen Fisherkeller
Tuesday 4:55 – 7:05 pm
Call number: 40795 (4 points)

What roles do popular media play in society and culture, and in particular the experiences, thinking and values of young people? How should we address the issues raised by the contemporary communication environment, and by the reality of young people's interactions with popular media? In this course, we will consider these questions. We will focus on debates and issues raised by various media environments that now characterize contemporary existence and young people's growth and experiences. Most importantly, we will investigate how young people actually use, value, and find meaning in multiple media in different social contexts, and discuss the social, cultural, and political implications of these situations. Finally, we will propose some ways to deal with the issues raised by the course.

Readings include: Buckingham, David. After the Death of Childhood: Growing up in the Age of Electronic Media (Polity Press, 2000); Fisherkeller, JoEllen Growing Up with Television: Everyday Learning among Young Adolescents (Temple University Press, 2002); Packet of Readings that focus on children and youth in media cultures.

[MA Areas of Study: Interaction and Social Processes and Cultural and Visual Studies]

E58.2295 Values Embodied in Information and Communication Technologies
Helen Nissenbaum
Monday 4:55 – 7:05 pm
Call number: 42637 (4 points)

Computing and information technologies mediate much private and public communication, interaction, and transaction, forming the infrastructure for critical social and institutional functions such as commerce, banking and finance, utilities, national defense, education, and entertainment. The course steps back and considers social, political, and ethical implications of these systems, evaluating how they promote or impede the values, such as freedom, privacy, justice and autonomy, to which we, individually and as societies are committed. Through a body of social commentary and key scholarly works in the philosophy and social study of technology, students will explore the rich and sometimes troubling relationship between technology, on the one hand, and social and political life, on the other, with special attention to ICT and new media.

This is a project-centered course in which students will collaborate in small groups, applying philosophical and social theories of technology to analyze and, possibly, design computer and information systems. From the start, students will be guided in the selection and development of project ideas.
and will be matched with one or two other students, based on mutual interests and complementary skills. The ideal class will include students with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds (humanities, social science, management, computer science), whose project goals will be adapted accordingly.

[MA Area of Study: Technology and Society]

**E58.2900 Thesis Seminar**  
Marion Wrenn  
Tuesday 7:15 – 9:25 pm

**DOCTORAL STUDENTS ONLY**

**E57.3011 Special Topics in Critical Theory: Suspiration and Interpretation**  
Ben Kafka  
Monday 2:00 – 4:10 pm  
Call number: 43476 (4 points)

The philosopher Paul Ricoeur famously labeled Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud the “masters of suspicion.” Though they practiced theory and theorized practice quite differently, they shared a proclivity for unmasking, unveiling, demystifying. More recently, this hermeneutics of suspicion has been criticized by proponents of the “anti-hermeneutic turn,” who contend that it reproduces a metaphysics of surface and depth, existence and essence. The objective of this seminar is to read the major theoretical statements of Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud in search of critical theory’s suspicist origins.

**E57.3200 Doctoral Core Seminar II**  
Tuesday 4 – 6:10 pm  
Arvind Rajagopal  
Call number: 40776 (4 credits)

**E57.3400 Doctoral Research Colloquium**  
Call number: 40777 (1 point)