

Doctoral Core Seminar 2 (MCC-GE 1785-002) Spring 2018

This PhD seminar meets every Monday from 14:00 to 16:50 in WAVE 366.

Summary

Doctoral Seminar 2 is the spring seminar for first-year PhD students in the Department of Media, Culture and Communication. The seminar focuses on key texts in social theory, media studies, and cultural studies. Attention will be given to issues and debates in new media, digital media, modernity and postmodernity, media archeology, theories of technology, and globalization. Together with Doctoral Seminar 1 (Fall 2017), this course serves as the basis for the General Theories qualifying exam administered at the end of the first year.

Class Structure & Assignments

Read each book completely prior to class. Each student will prepare to lead discussion for two different weeks during the course of the semester. For those weeks you are required to submit a brief 5-page paper on the book by that Friday. You will also be required to write a final 10-12 page paper based on suggested paper topics.

Class participation: 35%

Two class discussion response papers: 30%

Final paper (due noon May 14th): 35%

(Assignments will lose half a letter grade for each day overdue; papers will not be accepted more than one week after the original due date.)

Accessibility & Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities, with the advice and assistance of the appropriate services on campus.

Contact & Office Hours

I can be reached at fb42@nyu.edu. My office is 741, 239 Greene St. My office hours are Monday 08:00-10:30, and by appointment.

SCHEDULE

Introductions: Situating Media, Technology, and Theory

January 22. **Course Introduction**

Discussion of syllabus and framework of topics.

January 29. **The Anterior Field**

Leroi-Gourhan, André. *Gesture and Speech* (MIT Press, 1993)

February 5. **Immediate Perception**

Daston, Lorraine, and Peter Galison. *Objectivity* (Zone Books, 2007)

Technology, Science, and Media

February 12. **The Informatics of Domination**

Haraway, Donna. *Manifestly Haraway* (University of Minnesota Press, 2016)

February 19. *President's Day*

February 26. **Knocking on the Door of Our Collectivities**

Latour, Bruno. *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory* (Oxford, 2005)

March 5. **Surprisal**

Hayles, N. Katherine. *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics* (University of Chicago Press, 1999)

March 12. *Spring Recess*

Media Archeology

March 19. **We Are What Has Been Said**

Foucault, Michel. *The Archaeology of Knowledge* (Routledge, 2002)

March 26. **Remingtonese**

Kittler, Friedrich. *Discourse Networks, 1800 / 1900* (Stanford University Press, 1990)

Globalization and New Media Infrastructures

April 2. **Beyond Imported Magic**

Medina, Eden. *Cybernetic Revolutionaries: Technology and Politics in Allende's Chile* (MIT Press, 2011)

April 9. **The Booksellers of Empire**

Johns, Adrian. *Piracy: The Intellectual Property Wars from Gutenberg to Gates* (University of Chicago, 2009)

Theories of New Media

April 16. **Being New**

Chun, Wendy Hui Kyong. *Updating to Remain the Same: Habitual New Media* (MIT Press, 2016)

April 23. **After New**

Raley, Rita. *Tactical Media* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007)

Digital Media

April 30. **Extreme Inscriptions**

Kirschenbaum, Matthew. *Mechanisms: New Media and the Forensic Imagination* (MIT Press, 2007)

May 7. **Control is Control**

Beniger, James. *The Control Revolution: Technological and Economic Origins of the Information Society* (Harvard University Press, 1986)

Final papers due at noon May 14th.