

GS/CMCT 6004 (York) / CMCT 8906 (Ryerson)

Communication and Culture: An Interdisciplinary Approach

(FS 2017 – T 11:30-2:30, Ross N836)

Course Instructor

Susan Ingram

Office: 242 Vanier

Office Hour: T 3:00-4:00 or by appointment (singram@yorku.ca)

Course Description

This course introduces a critical approach to the three symbiotic areas of the program at the graduate level: media and culture; politics and policy, and technology in practice: applied perspectives. The course explores each area in modules that concentrate on four aspects: history; philosophy; theory; and principal concepts or issues, with one week dedicated to each aspect in each area. The goal of the seminar is to consider some of the foundational theoretical work in the field of communication and cultural studies and develop a critical relation to the three program streams. Each seminar participant will lead discussions of core readings, and each participant will also prepare a reflection on these works as theoretical frameworks and methodological models.

Evaluation

- seminar participation (20%)
weekly contributions: before each class, post short yet trenchant comments on, or questions about, the readings on the Moodle (due by Mon morning of each week), then come to class prepared to discuss both the readings and the reflections. Lively, respectful discussions are encouraged.
- 2 moderations of class discussion based on one week's readings + short (not more than 1-2 page) individual written summary of each due the following class (30%)
- final essay comparing our readings to Kellner & Durham's introduction to *Adventures in Media and Cultural Studies* (50%), 5000-7500 words, due Tues 5 Dec, to be submitted by email

Required Readings will be provided as links or pdfs on our **Moodle** site: moodle.yorku.ca. Registered students are automatically enrolled in the system. There you can also find the syllabus, announcements, useful links and a calendar to remind you of important due dates.

Schedule

12 Sept (Week 1): introductions

- Pierre Bourdieu, “The Field of Cultural Production, or: The Economic World Reversed”

19 Sept (2): media and culture – major concepts and issues

- Raymond Williams, “Culture”
- Tony Bennett, “Culture”
- Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, “The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception”

26 Sept (3): media and culture – history

- Ien Ang, “Stuart Hall and the Tension Between Academic and Intellectual Work”
- John Drabinski, “Shorelines: In Memory of Édouard Glissant (1928-2011)”
- Kaitlynn Mendes and Cynthia Carter, “Feminist and Gender Media Studies: A Critical Overview”

3 Oct (4): media and culture – philosophy and theory

- Cameron Duff, “On the Role of Affect and Practice in the Production of Place”
- Meaghan Morris, “Hong Kong Liminal: Situation as Method”
- Douglas Coupland, *Marshall McLuhan: You Know Nothing of My Work!* on Amazon + reviews

10 Oct (5): politics and policy – history

- Stuart Hall, “Life and Times of the First New Left”
- François Dosse, “Introduction to *Chaosophy*”
- Douglas Kellner, “Habermas, the Public Sphere, and Democracy: A Critical Intervention”

17 Oct (6): politics and policy – major concepts and issues

- Slavoj Žižek, “The Revolt of the Salaried Bourgeoisie”
- Heidi Yu Huang, “Gramsci and Cultural Hegemony in Post-Mao China”
- Rob Wilson, “Worlding Asia/Oceania: Concepts, Tactics, Warning Signs Inside the Anthropocene”

24 Oct (7): politics and policy – theory

- Lauren Berlant, “Cruel Optimism”
- Rosi Braidotti, “Punk Women and Riot Grrls”
- Interview with Dean Spade, *On Normal Life*

31 Oct (8): politics and policy – philosophy

- Jean-Luc Nancy, “What is to be Done?”
- Interview with Rosi Braidotti, “The Amoderns: Thinking With Zoe”
- Sara Ahmed, “Not in the Mood”

7 Nov (9): technology in practice – history, major concepts and issues

- Henry Jenkins, “Transmedia 101” and “Transmedia 202: Further Reflections”
- Ganaele Langlois and Greg Ulmer, “The Research Politics of Social Media Platforms”
- Ned Rossiter, “Imperial Infrastructures and Asia beyond Asia: Data Centres, State Formation and the Territoriality of Logistical Media”

14 Nov (10): technology in practice – philosophy

- David Beer, “The Social Power of Algorithms”
- Mark Hansen, “Foreword (Tim Lenoir)”, *New Philosophy for New Media*
- Micky Lee, “On Becoming an Exchange: Translating Michel Callon into a Political Economy of Communication”

21 Nov (11): technology in practice – theory

- Editorial, Apps & Affect conference
- Jodi Dean, “Apps and Drive”
- B.E. Duffy, “Entrepreneurial Wishes and Career Dreams”

28 Nov (12): conclusions