

Critical Approaches to Visual and Popular Culture (BMNAN13500A)

Zoltán Dragon – Kinga Földváry

Time: Mondays 8.15–11.45

Place: BTK D 217

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Course Materials: available online in the MS Teams course folder (for most articles, see *The Visual Culture Reader*, ed. Nicholas Mirzoeff)

Schedule:

- Week 1 (9 Sep – class begins at 10.15!) Introduction, requirements; Raymond Williams: “On High and Popular Culture” (1974); Nicholas Mirzoeff: “What Is Visual Culture?”
- Week 2 (16 Sep) Walter Benjamin: “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” (1939); Paul Virilio: “A Topographical Amnesia”
- Week 3 (23 Sep) John Fiske: “Videotech”; Marita Sturken: “The Wall, the Screen and the Image: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial”
- Week 4 (30 Sep) Donna Haraway: “The Persistence of Vision”; Lisa Cartwright: “Science and the Cinema”; Geoffrey Batchen: “Spectres of the Cyberspace”
- Week 5 (7 Oct) Michel Foucault: “Of Other Spaces,” Jonathan Crary: “The Camera Obscura and Its Subject,” Anne Friedberg: “The Mobilized and Virtual Gaze in Modernity”; Roy Boyne: “Post-Panopticism”
- Week 6 (14 Oct) **Mid-term test, Film screening**
- Week 7 (21 Oct) *Blow-Up* (dir. M. Antonioni, 1966); Laura Mulvey: “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema”; Kaja Silverman: “The Look” (Ch. 5 in *The Threshold of the Visible World*)
- Week 8 (28 Oct) **Autumn break, NO CLASS**
- Week 9 (4 Nov) Henry Jenkins, Joshua Ford and Sam Green: *Spreadable Media* (Introduction); Eran Fisher, Yoav Mehozay, “How algorithms see their audience: media epistemes and the changing conception of the individual”
- Week 10 (11 Nov) Ana Peraica: *Culture of the Selfie: Self-Representation in Contemporary Visual Culture* (Chapter I (Histories of Self-Observation), and Chapter VII (Conclusion))
- Week 11 (18 Nov) Lev Manovich: “Subjects and Styles in Instagram Photography, Parts 1 & 2” from *Instagram and Contemporary Image*
- Week 12 (25 Nov) N. Mirzoeff: “Empty the Museum, Decolonize the Curriculum, Open Theory”
- Week 13 (2 Dec) **End-term test**
- Week 14 (9 Dec) Conclusion, evaluation

Requirements:

- Regular attendance (no more than three missed classes), active participation in discussions
- Mid-term and End-term tests
- 10-15 minute presentation on one of the set readings, giving a brief summary of the key concepts and terminology addressed in the text, and a list of questions to induce class discussion