

Ethnic Studies 189

Visual Regimes of Punishment

Winter 2011
Wednesday 5:00-7:50pm
Office Hours Wednesday 1:00-3:00pm

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This course investigates the presence of visibility and the visual in contemporary culture and their sustained involvement in the long arc of modernity and the production of the racial subject. It will examine this presence on the terrains of spatialized domination that include colonialism, occupation, configurations of policing and imprisonment, and the topographies of population management. The course will map the modes of visibility that have shaped visual culture and its relationship to race and the practice of racial punishment. We will consider the visual's resistance to disciplinary boundaries; its role in debates about the categories of the human, the non-human and now the post-human; its presence in global inquiry and histories of security and violence; and finally its vexed relation to truth claims and the knowledge/power relation.

The goal will be to consider how a complex historicization of these topics and disciplinary engagements can contribute to a more nuanced and powerful account of visual theories and practices. The readings will pursue these questions by examining several topics: pre-modern and early modern visibility, science and spectacle, the role of visual representation in slavery and empire, the ethics of the visual, the visual economies at work in global security and population management, and the tyranny of vision.

Requirements and Grading

Class Assignments and Participation:	20%
Project Presentation:	20%
Mid-Term:	30%
Final	30%

Learning Outcomes

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

- advanced skills in the application of critical and interpretive vocabularies
- self-reflexivity as a research practitioner
- knowledge of a range of specific critical vocabularies, debates and concerns focused on visual communication, visual culture, media, cultural studies and ethnic studies.

This syllabus is subject to change during the quarter.

SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week One

Martin Jay. Downcast Eyes: The Denigration of Vision in Twentieth Century French Thought. Berkeley. UC Press. 1994.

Fanon, Franz. Black Skin White Masks. Chapter 5 “Fact of Blackness” New York: Grove Press Books 1963.

Da Silva, Denise. Toward a Global Idea of Race. “Preface” and “Chapter 1”. Minneapolis. Minnesota. 2006.

Week Two

Pierre Bourdieu, “Structures, Habitus, Power: Basis for a Theory of Symbolic Power,” trans. Richard Nice, Outline of a Theory of Practice (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1977) pp. 159-197.

Karl Marx, Capital Vol. I Part One: “Commodities and Money”, in The Marx-Engels Reader, ed. Robert C. Tucker, (New York: Norton, 1978 [1887]) pp. 302-329.

Week Three

Mbembe, Achille. “Of Commandment,” pg. 24-65 and “The Aesthetics of Vulgarity,” pgs 102-140 in On the Postcolony. Berkeley UC Press. 2001

Michel Foucault. “Society War and Power, Theory of Sovereignty and Operators of Domination, From the Power of Sovereignty to Power Over Life—Make Live and Let Die” In Society Must Be Defended New York Picador 2003

Week Four

Anton Kaes. “The Cold Gaze: Notes on Mobilization and Modernity”. New German Critique No 59, Summer1993)..

Gilmore, Ruth. “Terror, Austerity Race Gender Excess Theater” pgs. 23-37 in Reading Rodney King/Reading Urban Uprising. ed. Robert Gooding-Williams. New York. Routledge, 1993.

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Week Five

John Tagg. "Evidence, Truth and Order: Photographic Evidence and the Growth of the State". In The Burden of Representation: Essays on Photographies and Histories. Minneapolis. University of Minnesota Press, 1988.

Hal Foster . "Death in America: Shocked Subjectivity and Compulsive Visual Repetition." October, Vol. 75 1996.

Week Six

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

Elaine Scarry, 1985 "The Structure of Torture, the Conversion of Pain into the Fiction of Power." In The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World. Oxford University Press.

Week Seven

Michael Taussig. "Zoology, Magic, and Surrealism in the War on Terror" Critical Inquiry 34, Winter 2007.

Tony Bennet, "The Exhibitionary Complex," in The Birth of the Museum: History, Theory, Politics (New York, Routledge 1995) pp. 59-88.

Week Eight

Junger. Ernst. War and Photography New German Critique No 59, Summer: pp 24-26.
Blackboard Document 1993

Michel Foucault "The Spectacle of the Scaffold, Docile Bodies, Panopticism In Discipline and Punish: the Birth of the Prison, Vintage Books, Random House. 1985

Week Nine

Benjamin, Walter, 1969. "Paris Capital of the Nineteenth Century", Perspecta Vol. 12.

Allen Feldman. "Violence and Vision: the Prosthetics, Aesthetics of Terror in Northern Ireland." Public Culture, Volume 10, No. 1, Fall 1997.

Week Ten

Allen Feldman, "On the Actuarial Gaze: From 9/11 to Abu Ghraib," Cultural Studies Vol. 19, No. 2, March 2005.

Paige Dubois, 1991 "Torture, The Slave's Truth Torture And Writing." In Torture And Truth New York, London, Routledge.

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