

Course 17 367 VS – Culture, Gender, Media II: Visual Cultures (Schülting)

Tuesdays 10am-12noon

Habelschwerdter Allee 45, Room K 31/201

The new and expanding field of Visual Culture Studies questions the ‘textual turn’ in cultural studies and claims that the analysis of visual material requires different approaches than the analysis of texts and that “*spectatorship* (the look, the gaze, the glance, the practices of observation, surveillance, and visual pleasure) may be as deep a problem as various forms of reading (decipherment, decoding, interpretation, etc.)”, as W. J. T. Mitchell puts it in *Picture Theory* (1994). The object domain of Visual Culture Studies does not merely consist of images and the visual media, but of all things that can be seen. Visual Culture Studies also pays close attention to cultural practices of looking, to the power relations at the basis of these practices, as well as to the ways in which meaning and knowledge are constructed through acts of seeing.

In addition to giving a broad survey of different theoretical approaches to Visual Culture Studies, the seminar will look at a selection of case studies in more detail in order to enable students to analyse diverse phenomena of visual cultures. Our discussion of contemporary phenomena (the cultural predominance of visual media) will be complemented by a historical perspective which will attempt to trace the history of the visual and pay particular attention to 19th-century visual cultures.

Language: The course will be taught in English (level C1).

Texts: Relevant theoretical articles as well as visual material will be provided on a Blackboard site which will accompany the seminar.

Recommended introductory reading: W. J. T. Mitchell, *Picture Theory*. Chicago 1994.
Nicholas Mirzoeff, *An Introduction to Visual Culture*, London 1999.

Contact:

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14 Oct 2008	Introduction
21 Oct 2008	Theories of the Image text: Mieke Bal, "Visual Essentialism and the Object of Visual Culture"
28 Oct 2008	Spectatorship – Power – Knowledge text: Marita Sturken/Lisa Cartwright, "Spectatorship, Power, and Knowledge".
4 Nov 2008	Gendering the Gaze text: Mary Ann Doane, "Film and the Masquerade: Theorising the Female Spectator"
11 Nov 2008	The (Post)Colonial Gaze text: Homi Bhabha: "The Other Question: The Stereotype and Colonial Discourse"
18 Nov 2008	Watching the War text: Nicolas Mirzoeff, "The Banality of Images"
25 Nov 2008	Visuality and Art: The Invention of Perspective text: from Norman Bryson, <i>Vision and Painting</i>
2 Dec 2008	Producing Knowledge: The Scientific Gaze text: Michel Foucault, "Seeing and Knowing"
9 Dec 2008	Museums: The Visuality of Things text: Eilean Hooper-Greenhill, "Exhibition and Interpretation: Museum Pedagogy and Cultural Change"
16 Dec 2008	Victorian Visual Cultures from Renate Brosch (ed.), <i>Victorian Visual Culture</i>
6 Jan 2009	Tutorial: essays
13 Jan 2009	Visual Technologies: Photography – Film – New Media text: Susan Sontag, "The Image-World"
20 Jan 2009	Text and Image text: W. J. T. Mitchell, "Ekphrasis and the Other"
27 Jan 2009	Visual Culture and Cultural Memory: The Visual History Archive
3 Feb 2009	
10 Feb 2009	Summary – Conclusions – Open Questions