

Contemporary Media Theory

Fall 2017

Anna Greenspan
agi58@nyu.edu

Course Description	This is a seminar style course based on close readings of selected texts in contemporary media theory. Through a critical engagement with thinkers such as Mark Hansen, Kathryn Hayles, Benjamin Bratton, Wendy Chun, and Jennifer Gabrys students will gain the abstract conceptual tools to think rigorously about 21st century technology. Grades will be based on seminar participation, reflection upon the texts (both written and aural) as well as a final essay. IMA students, in particular, will be encouraged to combine theory with practice in their final essay.
Learning Outcomes	By the end of this course students will be able to: a) carefully read and critically analyze challenging texts in media theory; b) reflect upon the ideas presented in these texts both aurally and in writing; c) write a research essay that links media theory with practice.
Teaching and Learning Methodology	This is a seminar class, active participation on reading based discussion is essential.
Graded Activities & Assignments	15% Participation 30 % Presentation (15 x 2) 30% Written Reflections (15 x 2) 25 % Final paper

Course Schedule	
<i>Week 1</i>	
09/04	Hayles, N. Katherine. 'Prologue: Transforming How We See the World' and 'Introduction'. In <i>Unthought: The Power of the Cognitive Nonconscious</i> . Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2017.
09/06	Hayles, N. Katherine. '1. Nonconscious Cognitions: Human and Others'. In <i>Unthought: The Power of the Cognitive Nonconscious</i> . Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2017.

Week 2

09/11	Hayles, N. Katherine. '3. The Cognitive Nonconscious and the New Materialisms'. In <i>Unthought: The Power of the Cognitive Nonconscious</i> . Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2017.
09/13	Hayles, N. Katherine. '5. Cognitive Assemblages: Technical Agency and Human Interactions'. In <i>Unthought: The Power of the Cognitive Nonconscious</i> . Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2017.

Week 3

09/18	<u>Unthought Presentations</u>
09/20	Make up class: 9/22 Lecture by Kathryn Hayles at the Shanghai Theater Academy.

Week 4

09/25	Hansen, Mark B. N. 'Introduction: Whitehead as Media Theorist?' In <i>Feed-Forward: On the Future of Twenty-First-Century Media</i> . Chicago ; London: University of Chicago Press, 2015.
09/27	Hansen, Mark B. N. '1. Prehensivity'. In <i>Feed-Forward: On the Future of Twenty-First-Century Media</i> . Chicago ; London: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Week 5

10/9	Hansen, Mark B. N. '4. Sensibility'. In <i>Feed-Forward: On the Future of Twenty-First-Century Media</i> . Chicago ; London: University of Chicago Press, 2015.
10/11	<u>Feed Forward Presentations</u>

Week 6

10/16	Peters, John Durham. 'Introduction'. In <i>The Marvelous Clouds: Toward a Philosophy of Elemental Media</i> , 1st edition. Chicago ; London: University of Chicago Press, 2015.
10/18	Peters, John Durham. '1. Understanding Media'. In <i>The Marvelous Clouds: Toward a Philosophy of Elemental Media</i> , 1st edition. Chicago ; London: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Week 7

10/23	Peters, John Durham. '5. The Times and the Seasons: Sky Media II (Kairos)'. In <i>The Marvelous Clouds: Toward a Philosophy of Elemental Media</i> , 1st edition. Chicago ; London: University of Chicago Press, 2015.
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10/25	<u>The Marvelous Clouds Presentations</u>
<i>Week 8</i>	
10/30	Chun, Wendy Hui Kyong. 'Introduction'. In <i>Updating to Remain the Same: Habitual New Media</i> , Illustrated edition. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2016.
11/1	Chun, Wendy Hui Kyong. 'Always Searching, Never Finding' and '1. Habitual Connections, or Network Maps: Belatedly Too Early'. In <i>Updating to Remain the Same: Habitual New Media</i> , Illustrated edition. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2016.
<i>Week 9</i>	
11/6	Chun, Wendy Hui Kyong. 'The Friend of My Friend Is My Enemy (and Thus My Friend)' and 'The Leakiness of Friends, or Think Different Like Me'. In <i>Updating to Remain the Same: Habitual New Media</i> , Illustrated edition. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2016.
11/8	<u>Updating to Remain the Same Presentations</u>
<i>Week 10</i>	
11/13	Bratton, Benjamin H. 'Introduction'. In <i>The Stack: On Software and Sovereignty</i> . Cambridge, MA, USA: MIT Press, 2016.
11/15	Sinofuturism: Screening & Discussion with Lawrence Lek and Steve Goodman at All
<i>Week 11</i>	
11/20	Bratton, Benjamin H. 'Platform and Stack, Model and Machine'. In <i>The Stack: On Software and Sovereignty</i> . Cambridge, MA, USA: MIT Press, 2016.
11/22	Bratton, Benjamin H. 'User Layer'. In <i>The Stack: On Software and Sovereignty</i> . Cambridge, MA, USA: MIT Press, 2016.
<i>Week 12</i>	
11/27	<u>The Stack Presentations</u>
11/29	Gabrys, Jennifer. 'Introduction'. In <i>Program Earth: Environmental Sensing Technology and the Making of a Computational Planet</i> , 1st edition. Minneapolis: University Of Minnesota Press, 2016.
<i>Week 13</i>	

12/4	Gabrys, Jennifer. '2. From Moss Cam to Spillcam: Techno-Geographies of Experience'. In <i>Program Earth: Environmental Sensing Technology and the Making of a Computational Planet</i> , 1st edition. Minneapolis: University Of Minnesota Press, 2016.
12/6	Gabrys, Jennifer. '6. Sensing Air and Creaturing Data'. In <i>Program Earth: Environmental Sensing Technology and the Making of a Computational Planet</i> , 1st edition. Minneapolis: University Of Minnesota Press, 2016.

Week 14

12/11	<u>Program Earth Presentations</u>
12/13	<u>Final Essay Workshop</u>