

WORD & IMAGE

CC 205

Fall 2011

Professor Buggeln,

Biweekly discussion meetings according to section times

Wednesday Plenary Lectures, 6:45-7:45 p.m. in 1412 VUCA

Course Description

This course introduces students to some problems in the history of visual and literary representation from Plato to the present. The course is divided into three sections. The first focuses on the authority of representations in the ancient world. The second section explores the rise of modern ways of seeing and human nature in eighteenth and nineteenth-century travel literature, and Romantic and Realist art and literature. Finally, we will turn our attention to the moral duty of makers of images and texts in the modern world. Among the variety of questions that will concern us this semester are: What is representation and how do words and images operate? Can words claim legitimacy that images may not and vice-versa? What do makers of representations owe their viewers/readers?

Requirements

Students are expected to come to class with comments and questions about the required reading. Writing assignments will include three critical papers, five to seven pages in length each, a one-page response to the required field trip, and a short descriptive exercise. These papers will be based on assigned course work and should not require additional research. All papers will be due in the Christ College office **by 5 p.m.** on the due date.

Paper topics posted:

Saturday, Sept. 24

Saturday, Oct. 29

Thursday, Dec. 8

Paper due:

Monday, Oct. 10

Friday, Nov. 11

Thursday, Dec. 15

Descriptive exercise: travel photograph and descriptive paragraph due Monday, Oct. 17

Required Field Trip: Saturday, Nov. 12 to Hindu Temple, approx. 9 am - 3 pm

Written Response to Field Trip, Art Gallery, or one other short assignment at discretion of instructor, TBA

Evaluation

Grades will be based chiefly on the written assignments, constituting 75% of the final grade. Twenty-five percent (25%) will reflect participation in class discussions (including

activities and short assignments). *Paper extensions will not be granted except in rare instances and must be arranged ahead of time with instructor.*

The Honor Code must be observed at all times throughout this course.

Required Films:

- Monday, Sept. 19: *The Mission* (1986) 7:00 p.m. in 140 Mueller
- Monday, Oct. 17: *War Photographer* (2001) 7:00 p.m. in 140 Mueller
- Monday, Nov. 28: *The Truman Show* (1998) 7:00 p.m. in 140 Mueller
- Wednesday, Nov. 30: *The Little Mermaid* (1989) (regular Wed. plenary time)

Special CC Symposium:

Thursday, Oct. 20: Dr. Karla Britton, Yale School of Architecture, “Contemporary Religious Architecture in the Middle East”

Required Texts for Purchase:

- Plato, *The Republic*, 2nd ed, tr.G.M.A. Grube. Hackett Publishing Company, 1992.
- Shusako Endo, *Silence*, tr. William Johnston. Taplinger, 1980.
- William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and Experience* (1794).
- John Berger, *Ways of Seeing*. Penguin, 1972.
- Susan Sontag, *Regarding the Pain of Others*. Picador, 2004.
- Joe Sacco, *Palestine*. Fantagraphics Books, 2001.

Additional readings available on Blackboard unless otherwise noted

Plenary Schedule:

Wed., Aug. 24	Introduction (Buggeln)
Wed., Aug. 31	Plato (Prof. Upton)
Wed., Sept. 7	Images, Icons, and Idolatry in the Christian Tradition I (Buggeln)
Wed., Sept. 14	Images, Icons, and Idolatry II (Buggeln)
Wed., Sept. 21	Discussion of Mission (faculty)
Wed., Sept. 28	William Blake (Danger)
Wed., Oct. 5	Nineteenth-Century Ways of Seeing (Buggeln)
Wed., Oct. 19	The Realist Impulse (Graber)
Thurs. Oct. 20	CC Symposium, Karla Britton
Wed., Oct. 26	Our Image of War (Graber)
Wed., Nov. 2	Visual Information in the Modern World (Buggeln)
Wed., Nov. 9	Hinduism speaker TBA
Wed., Nov. 16	Title TBA (Cartoonist and Pastor Jim Wetzstein)

Wed., Nov. 30 Showing of Disney's Little Mermaid
 Wed., Dec. 7 Disney (Miller)

Word and Image Fall 2010: Reading Assignments

1. Week of August 22

Reading: 1. Course Introduction
 2. W.J.T. Mitchell, *Picture Theory*, pp. 1-6; "Representation" in
 Lentricchia and McLaughlin, eds., *Critical Terms for Literary Study*,
 11-22; Kevin Kelly, "Becoming Screen Literate" (New York Times, Nov.
 23, 2008)

Wednesday Plenary: Introduction (Buggeln)

2. Week of Aug. 29

Reading: 1. *Republic*, pp. 32-80
 2. *Republic*, pp. 174-212, 264-79

Wednesday Plenary: Plato (Upton)

3. Week of Sept. 5

Reading: 1. John of Damascus, *On the Divine Images*, Treatise I
 2. Luther, selections from "Against the Heavenly Prophets in the Matter of
 Images and Sacraments" (1525); Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian
 Religion*, Book One, XI: 1-16, XII: 1-3, Book Four, X: 28-30, XIV: 3-5.

Wednesday Plenary: Images, Icons, and Idolatry in the Christian Tradition I (Buggeln)

4. Week of Sept. 12

Reading: 1. Endo, *Silence*, vii-xviii, 3-46, Ignatius, *Spiritual Exercises* (excerpt)
 2. *Silence*, 47-100

Wednesday Plenary: Images, Icons, and Idolatry II (Buggeln)

5. Week of Sept. 19

Reading: 1. *Silence*, 101-91
 2. Discussion of *The Mission*

Monday Film: *The Mission*

Wednesday Plenary: Discussion of *The Mission* (faculty)

6. Week of Sept. 26

Reading: 1. William Blake, *Songs of Innocence*
2. William Blake, *Songs of Experience*

Wednesday Plenary: William Blake (Danger)

7. Week of Oct. 3

Reading: 1. Edmund Burke, Excerpts from *A Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful* (1756-7); Thomas Cole, *Essay on the American Scenery*.
2. Tourism: James Buzard, "The Grand Tour and After (1660-1840) in *The Cambridge Companion to Travel Writing*, 37-52; Francis Trollope, *Domestic Manners of the Americans* (1832), Preface, chapters 1 and 10; De Toqueville, *Democracy in America* (1837), chapter 1; Equiano, *Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1794), chapters 2 and 3.

Wednesday Plenary: "Nineteenth-Century Ways of Seeing" (Buggeln)

8. Week of Oct. 10

Reading: 1. Rebecca Harding Davis, *Life in the Iron Mills*

Fall Break NO WEDNESDAY PLENARY

9. Week of Oct. 17

Monday Film: *War Photographer*

Reading: 1. Discussion of film *War Photographer*
2. Jacob Riis, selections from *How the Other Half Lives*

Wednesday Plenary: "The Realist Impulse" (Graber)

10. Week of Oct. 24

Reading: 1. Sontag, *Regarding the Pain of Others*, 3-58

2. Sontag, 59-126

Wednesday Plenary: “Our Image of War” (Graber)

11. Week of Oct. 31

Reading: 1. Berger, *Ways of Seeing*, 7-64
2. Berger, *Ways of Seeing*, 83-154

Wednesday Plenary: Visual Information in the Modern World (Buggeln)

12. Week of Nov. 7: Architecture and visual practice

Readings: 1. Diana Eck, *Darsan*, Chs. 1-2, pp. 3-58.
2. *Darsan*, Afterword, pp. 77-92.

Wednesday Plenary: TBA

Saturday, Nov. 12: Field Trip to Hindu Temple

13. Week of Nov. 14

Reading: 1. McCloud, “The Vocabulary of Comics”;
Art Spiegelman, *Maus I*, Ch. 1
Sacco, *Palestine*, Ch. 1-2
2. Sacco, *Palestine*, Chs. 3-5; *Maus I*, chs. 4-6

“Word and Image: Guest lecture by Pastor/Cartoonist Jim Wetzstein, title TBA

--Thanksgiving Recess--

14. Week of Nov. 28

Monday: View film *The Truman Show*

Reading: 1. *Palestine*, Chs. 6-9
2. Jean Baudrillard, “Simulacra and Simulations”; Umberto Eco, “Travels in Hyperreality”

Wednesday Plenary: Watch “Little Mermaid”

15. Week of Dec. 5

Reading: 1. "The Little Mermaid" by Hans Christian Andersen

Jack Zipes, "Breaking the Disney Spell"; Elizabeth Bell, "Somnatexts at the Disney Shop"
2. Scott Hermanson, "Truer Than Life: Disney's Animal Kingdom"

Wednesday Plenary: Disney (Miller)