Media Culture II

Professor Russell A. Potter

T/Th, 4-5:50, Horace Mann 193

This course extends the study of media and society undertaken in Media Culture I into the theoretical and philosophical debates over the consequences and potentials of current technologies of text, image, sound, and multiple media in the twenty-first century. We will use a series of theoretical and cultural “nodes” as means of addressing issues of both form and content in terms of new media streams and objects, and the social contexts and consequences of each.


Recommended Books (Whenever possible, I have made excerpts or summaries of these available, but if possible I urge you to obtain your own copies of all these): Roland Barthes, Camera Lucida; Walter J. Ong, Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word; Jorge Luis Borges, Labyrinths; Henry Jenkins, Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide.
COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE (Aug. 31, Sept. 2) **“Art” and Aura** Tuesday: Introduction to class. 

WEEK TWO (Sept. 7, 9) **Image** Tuesday: Benjamin, “A Short History of Photography”. Thursday: Barthes, excerpts from *Camera Lucida* (Blog). In-class slideshow of early photography.

WEEK THREE (Sept 14, 16) **Text** Tuesday: Barthes, “From Work to Text” (CSR). Thursday: Ong, excerpts from *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word; “The End of Literacy” (Blog).


WEEK SIX (Oct. 5, 7) **Sound** Tuesday: Kittler, “Gramophone” (CSR); Freire, “Early Musical Impressions from Both Sides of the Loudspeaker” (Blog). Thursday: Himes, “Is there a Field Called Sound Culture Studies? And does it matter?” (Blog).

WEEK SEVEN (Oct. 14) **Globalism** Thursday: Appadurai, “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy” (CSR)

WEEK EIGHT (Oct. 19, 21) **Culture** Tuesday: Adorno and Horkheimer, “The Culture Industry – Enlightenment as Mass Deception” (CSR)


WEEK TWELVE (Nov. 16, 18) **Collage** Tuesday: Early Collagists (Hannah Höch, Max Ernst, Kurt Schwitters, William S. Burroughs (Blog, UBU Web). Thursday: Video in the age of the Mashup (Blog).

WEEK THIRTEEN (Nov. 23) **Convergence** Tuesday: Henry Jenkins, “From YouTube to YouNiversity”; Jenkins video from Authors@Google (Blog).

[Thanksgiving Break]

WEEK FOURTEEN (Nov. 30, Dec. 2) **Dreamtime** Tuesday: In-class film, *City of Lost Children (1995)*. Thursday: Review.

WEEK FIFTEEN (Dec. 7, 9) Tuesday and Thursday: FINAL PRESENTATIONS