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Winter 2019

### Course Syllabus (W19 Online) COLI 331T--Television Culture: "Lens, Mirror, Screen: Orwell's NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR"

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**Course Description:**

Or, a conjuncture of three moments in the dialectic of television as technical apparatus and cultural practice.

In this course, we will read George Orwell's *1984*, view Michael Radford's filmic adaptation of the novel, and consider a number of critical texts in order to think the psychological and social implications of television as an instrument of control, manipulation, and knowledge production.

What, we ask, are the implications, in both *1984* and concrete experience, of light-speed communication capabilities for sense perception, consciousness, language, and awareness? In its dissemination of images and information, how does television impede and/or facilitate politics of identity formation, resistance, and social revolution? How does it inform and/or intersect with rhetorical and aesthetic experience? Or, again, how does it structure time, space, production and consumption? How does it determine practices of producing and consuming goods and services? Alluding to McLuhan, what is the status of subjects, objects, and things in the context of television as 'medium' and 'message'? How does television construct and/or deconstruct memory and history...?

**General Education Fulfillment:**

This course will fulfill the General Education Composition (C) requirement. Binghamton University requires students enrolled in C-courses to write a minimum of 20 pages of expository prose within the framework of each course with the minimum expectation of the Objectives and Learning Outcomes listed below.

**Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

(1) Demonstrate an understanding of the course content through formal academic writing; (2) demonstrate the ability to construct effective prose that demonstrates critical thinking and advances sound conclusions appropriate to the course and discipline; (3) demonstrate the ability to revise and improve writing in both form and content.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

(1) Four 5-page papers, to be submitted via Turnitin.com  
(=15% each, or a cumulative 60%, of the final grade).

Papers are to be type-written and double-spaced in 12-point font using 1-inch margins and MLA citation conventions.

(2) Four (4) short reading question/concept responses via email (listed in header of this document):  
(=10% each, or a cumulative 40% of the final grade). The purpose of this exercise is to empower students by enabling them to develop lines of argument for paper-writing in response to authors' arguments and any inconsistencies and contradictions at work in them.

**\*Late paper and concept response submissions will not be accepted without instructor approval and will factor as 0% in grade calculation.**

**\*Please inform the instructor by email of any special learning needs you may have no later than the day of the Course Add/Drop deadline.**

### **Campus-wide Emergency and Non-emergency Resources:**

Students, faculty, staff, and University administrators understand the pressures associated with higher education, and we urge each of you take good, holistic care of yourselves, your friends, and your families and reach out to this network early should you find yourself in need. The following is a list of on-campus resources available to you:

1. Recreation Center (West Gym; East Gym): 607-777-PLAY
2. University Counseling Center: 607-777-2772
3. Decker Student Health Services Center: 607- 777-2221
4. Interpersonal Violence Prevention: 607-777-3062
5. Harpur Advising: 607-777-6305
6. Office of International Student & Scholar Services: 607-777-2510
7. Dean of Students Office: 607-777-2804
8. University Police: From a campus phone, dial 911; from a cell phone, dial 607-777-2222.
9. Bear Necessities Food Pantry: Rockefeller Center 168, M-F 1:45-3:45pm

### **A Note on Academic Integrity:**

Plagiarism consists in the unacknowledged use of another person's work. Students enrolled in this course are required and expected to do their own work. Instances of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, will be punished in accordance with University policy. Students in need of clarification of the University's policy on academic integrity are encouraged to review it online at the following link: [http://www.binghamton.edu:8080/exist9/rest/lists2013-14/2\\_academic\\_policies\\_and\\_procedures\\_all\\_students/academicPoliciesAndProcedureAllStudents.xml?\\_xsl=/db/xsl/compose.xsl#d1591e36](http://www.binghamton.edu:8080/exist9/rest/lists2013-14/2_academic_policies_and_procedures_all_students/academicPoliciesAndProcedureAllStudents.xml?_xsl=/db/xsl/compose.xsl#d1591e36)

All scheduled readings are required unless the instructor labeled "Recommended." Please note that the instructor reserves the right to alter the reading schedule on short notice as needed. All scheduled texts are available on MyCourses.

### **Week 1**

**Mon, 12/17:** George Orwell—*1984*, Part 1;  
Umberto Eco—*Apocalypse Postponed*, Pt. 1, Ch. 5: "Orwell, or Concerning Visionary Power;"  
Jean Baudrillard—"The Ecstasy of Communication"  
Barry Brummett—*Rhetoric of Machine Aesthetics*, Ch. 1: "Aesthetics, Machines, and Rhetoric" (**Recommended**)

**Wed, 12/19:** Paul Virilio—"The Vision Machine;"  
Marshall McLuhan—"The Medium is the Message"  
Louis Althusser—"Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" (**Recommended**)  
**Paper #1 Topic Assigned; Course Add/Drop Deadline**

**Fri, 12/21:** Berel Lang—"1984: Newspeak, Technology, and the Death of Language;"  
Orwell—*1984*, Appendix: "The Principles of Newspeak"  
**Question/Concept Response #1 due via email by 5pm**

**Mon, 12/24:** **Paper #1 due via TurnItIn.com by 5pm**

**Mon, 12/24/2018 — Tues, 01/01/2019: No Readings: Winter Session Break**

**Week 2**

**Wed, 01/02:** Orwell—*1984*, Part 2;  
Gilles Deleuze—“Postscript on the Societies of Control;”  
William Burroughs—“The Limits of Control”  
**Paper #2 Topic Assigned**

**Fri, 01/04** Jean Baudrillard—“The System of Objects;”  
Walter Benjamin—“The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”  
**Question/Concept Response #2 due via email by 5pm**

**Week 3**

**Mon, 01/07:** Orwell—*1984*, Part 3 and Afterword;  
Roger Paden—“Surveillance and Torture: Foucault and Orwell on the Methods of  
Discipline”  
**Paper #2 due via Turnitin.com**

**Wed, 01/09:** Guy Debord—*Society of the Spectacle*, Chs 1-3;  
Marita Sturken—“The Politics of Video Memory”  
**Paper #3 Topic Assigned**

**Fri, 01/11:** Michael Radford—*1984* (Film adaptation of Orwell’s *1984*);  
Debord—*Society*, Chs. 4-6  
**Question/Concept Response #3 due via email by 5pm**

**Week 4**

**Mon, 01/14:** Debord—*Society*, Chs. 7-9  
**Paper #3 Due via Turnitin.com**  
**Paper #4 Topic Assigned**

**Tues, 01/15:** Baudrillard—“The Mirror of Production”  
**Question/Concept Response #4 due via email by 5pm**

**Fri, 01/18:** **Paper #4 Due via Turnitin.com**