

THE CRISES OF VISUAL CULTURE

Dr. Inbar Kaminsky

Spring Semester

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Office Hours: TBD

Short description:

The course examines leading aesthetic theories in relation to watershed events of visual culture, from the digital revolution to post 9/11 mediality and virtual reality. The course also explores the chronology of the sublime theory throughout the history of Western culture as well as the visual impact of 9/11 and its contribution to the rise of the post-apocalyptic genre and the figure of the zombie in literature, television and film. In addition, the course discusses the question of whether there is still a cultural significance to the distinction between reality and illusion by reviewing various metaphors of virtual life, such as lucid dreams and parallel universes.

Assessment:

Midterm:

Midterm paper (20%)

Final requirement:

Final paper (70%)

Participation:

Active participation in class discussions (10%)

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.