I see therefore I am...visuality and identity in the modern age

CFIII-UF9103001 Cultural Foundations III
Fall 2016
Mondays* 9:00AM-12:00PM
B207

* Please see the course schedule; one class (Make-Up Day) will not be on a Monday, and one class will be held on a Friday to visit the Philips Collection.

Prerequisites

Cultural Foundations I and II

Class Description

No matter how or where or what we look at, our view is always constrained: by the horizon, by the frame of a window, or by the biological limitations of our bodies. In addition to physical boundaries our image of the world is further shaped by cognition (elements such as language, media, memories) individual circumstances (elements such as gender, race and class) and finally by the social world (elements such as surveillance and invisibility). This Cultural Foundations course will follow The Look—the act of looking, the power of the gaze, the socio-political and philosophical ramifications of the look—in poetry, prose, opera and the visual arts from the eighteenth century to the present day. Together we will explore core questions such as: What is Art? What does Art show us about ourselves, and the world? Does the act of looking carry the same valence in different cultures? Who controls our gaze? What does it mean to be invisible? We will pay special attention to questions of inequality: whether it be as gender, race or class; what are the cultural debates around injustice and inequality?
Desired Outcomes

To acquaint students with some of the events and artistic movements that led to, composed, and then moved beyond, modernity

To alert students to the various interpretive and expressive assumptions and traditions that have served the past and taken us into the present

To build on methods of inquiry and interpretative skills that should be applied to understanding and appreciating artistic texts of various kinds

To continue to develop students’ critical faculties, including the reading and writing skills that are essential to critical thought

Assessment Components

15% In-Class Participation: Participation in seminar meetings is essential. You should each come to class prepared to actively engage one another and the course materials in a thoughtful and critical manner. If you come to class unprepared, or unwilling to actively participate in discussion, you might as well be absent and I will count you as such. Be sure to bring relevant texts with you every week. It is important we all have the SAME texts so please try to stick to the editions specified or in the Reading Room or online. I will keep track (mostly) of the quality (not the quantity) of your contribution to class discussion. If you are particularly shy, you may partially compensate for your reticence by coming to see me during office hours or by participating more online. You will also be required to contribute to seminar discussion in a structured, pre-planned role—details TBA.

10% Online reading responses: I will maintain a NYU Classes discussion board where you will respond each week (before we meet) to the question posed. In just 5-7 sentences draw on the week’s readings or films to respond to the question. If you respond after fellow students, you are expected to read their responses and build upon them, or differ from them.

15% Paper #1 5-6 page paper (1750-2100 words) Details TBA, Wednesday October 5 by 9am.

20% Paper #2 6-7 page paper (2100-2450 words) Details TBA, Paper Two due 9am, Monday November 21st

15% Midterm--A treasure hunt (written up as a short essay) Details TBA, due Sunday, November 6, by 5pm.

25% Final Exam—In class and in three sections involving text identification and short essay answers—December 12th at 9am.
Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C:** The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

**Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

**Grade conversion**

NYU Washington, DC uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

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<td>89-87</td>
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<td>86-84</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>65-66</td>
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<td>83-80</td>
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<td>below 65</td>
<td>F</td>
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<td>79-77</td>
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**Attendance Policy**

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes
typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. **To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students’ semester grades.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure. At all Global Academic Centers, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.

To seek an excused absence for medical reasons, students must use the online absence reporting form within 24 hours of their first missed class. Students may be required to produce a doctor’s note with that day’s date, especially if the student has missed any classes already that semester or if exams/presentations/papers occurred in the missed class.

Non-medical absences must be discussed with the Academic Program Coordinator at least 7 days before the missed date(s) in question. If faculty members do not receive notification of an excused absence, the student has not procured an excused absence.

NYU Washington, DC expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks), to be attentive, and to remain for the duration of the class. If full class attendance and participation becomes a problem, it is the prerogative of each instructor to apply the rule for unexcused absences, which may include a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.

Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/or office hour discussions to discuss any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work.

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave Washington, DC before the end of the finals week.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion. Staff members may always be reached by cell phone for advice regarding public transportation.

### Late Submission of Work

1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

2) Late work should be emailed to the faculty as soon as it is completed. (If the assignment must be submitted in person, the Academic Program Coordinator can collect on behalf of the faculty between the hours of 9–5, M–F.)

3) Late work will be reduced for a fraction of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for
every day it is late, including weekends.

4) Written work during the semester that is submitted 5 days after the submission date (including weekends) without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

5) Students who arrive to class late for an exam do not have automatic approval to take extra time to complete the exam.

6) Students who miss an exam (including the final) without previously arranged permission will receive a zero on that exam.

7) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

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<th>Students with Disabilities</th>
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<td>Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.</td>
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<th>Plagiarism Policy</th>
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<td>As the University's policy on &quot;Academic Integrity for Students at NYU&quot; states: &quot;At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others.&quot; Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.</td>
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The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU Washington, DC takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. Your instructor may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the
subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

http://liberalstudies.nyu.edu/page/academicintegrity

http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

http://gls.nyu.edu/page/gls.academicintegrity

**Religious Observances**

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.

Students must notify their professor and the Washington, DC Academics team in writing via email at least 7 days before being absent for this purpose.

**Required Text(s)**

I. Readings:
Aphra Behn, *Oroonoke*
Denis Diderot “Encyclopedie”, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “Duties of Women” and Mary Wollstonecraft “Vindication of the Rights of Women”
TS Eliot, “The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock”
Joseph Conrad, *Secret Agent*
Virginia Woolf, “Street Haunting” and “A Room of One’s Own”
Dion Boucicault, *The Octoroon*
Albert Camus “Adulterous Woman”
Rabindranath Tagore, *Home and the World*
Michel Foucault “Panopticism”
Phillip K Dick “Minority Report”
Toni Morrison, *Jazz*

II. Films:
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* (dir. Joseph Losey)
Alfred Hitchcock, *Rear Window*
Andrei Tarkovsky, *Ivan’s Childhood*
Gillo Pontecorvo, *Battle of Algiers*
Satyajit Ray, *Devi*
Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, *The Lives of Others*
Laura Poitras, *CitizenFour*
Beyoncé, *Lemonade* visual album

**Supplemental Texts(s) (i.e., not required for purchase)**

*Gardner’s Art through the Ages, a Global History, ed. Fred S. Kleiner.* Cengage Learning, 2016. *Digital versions of Gardner’s should be accessed using this URL:*

Student Registration URL: [https://login.cengagebrain.com/course/MTPN-W87P-JBHP](https://login.cengagebrain.com/course/MTPN-W87P-JBHP)
Course Key: MTPN-W87P-JBHP

**Internet Research Guidelines**

The internet is a powerful and useful source. Internet research is encouraged but it must be cited as you would cite a book, essay or poem—even basic information you find on Wikipedia gets a footnote. Some of our course texts are discussed on sites such as Spark Notes or Shmoop but I caution you to stay away from such sites as the notes are not particularly insightful or helpful. Any ideas you do find online, must be carefully cited, even if re-written in your own words. Please see NYU’s policies on plagiarism for further guidelines.

**Additional Required Equipment**

N/A

**Session 1 – Monday, August 29, 2016**

**Introductions**

Kathryn Schulz “Sight Unseen”

* Because of the Labor Day holiday, there is no class next week (Sept. 5)

**Session 2 – Monday, September 12, 2016**

**UNIT I: A New Day?**

READ: Aphra Behn, *Oroonoke*
BROWSE: http://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did
Look up the words “slave” “enjoyment” “taste” “political authority”

Session 3 – Monday, September 19, 2016

The Enlightenment
WATCH: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Don Giovanni (dir Joseph Losey)


Session 4 – Monday, September 26, 2016

The Romantic Movement

READ: Dion Boucicault, The Octoroon

Paper One due, uploaded on NYU Classes and hard copy dropped off in the student lounge on Wednesday October 5 by 9am.

* Our class does not meet next week Monday (Oct. 3) due to the Fall Break

Session 5 – Monday, October 10, 2016

UNIT II: Burning noon


Session 6 – Monday, October 17, 2016

The Modern City

READ: TS Eliot, “The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock” and Virginia Woolf “Street Haunting” and “A Room of One’s Own,”

WATCH: Alfred Hitchcock, Rear Window

Session 7 – Monday, October 24, 2016
War

READ: Joseph Conrad, Secret Agent

WATCH: Andrei Tarkovsky, Ivan’s Childhood

**Session 8 – FRIDAY, November 4th, 2016—10am**

*Modern Fine Art* -- Visit to the Phillips Collection with local artist Maryanne Pollock

There is no reading for this week. Instead there will be a **Midterm** treasure hunt at the Philips Collection—given out in the gallery after the tour. Please upload your typed response by **Sunday, November 6, 5pm on NYU Classes**. No hard copies necessary.

**Session 9 – Monday, November 07, 2016**

**UNIT III: Sunset**

*The Colonial Subject*

READ: Albert Camus, "The Adulterous Woman"

WATCH: Gillo Pontecorvo, Battle of Algiers

**Session 10 – Monday, November 14, 2016**

*Struggle for Independence*

READ: Rabindranath Tagore, Home and the World

WATCH: Satyajit Ray, Devi

**Session 11 – Monday, November 21, 2016**

**Paper Two due 9am, Monday November 21st** on NYU Classes and a hard copy in class.

*Mass Surveillance and tyranny*

WATCH: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, The Lives of Others
Session 12 – Monday, November 28, 2016

Pulitzer Prize winning author and New York Times journalist Charlie Savage visits class and we have pizza afterwards

READ: Michel Foucault’s “Panopticon”

WATCH: Laura Poitras, Citizen Four

* Our next class is this FRIDAY.

Session 13 – FRIDAY, December 02, 2016 (MAKE-UP DAY) We meet at the National Museum of African American History & Culture

Alternate places

READ: PKD “Minority Report”

Session 14 – Monday, December 05, 2016

READ: Toni Morrison, Jazz

WATCH: Beyoncé “Lemonade”

Session 15 (Finals Week) – Monday, December 12, 2016

FINAL Exam in class during our regular class times. The exam will by 100 minutes long. It will have three sections: text identification, short essay answer and long essay answer.

Classroom Etiquette

Please do not eat or drink in class. Water is fine.

This is a three-hour discussion seminar with a 15 minute break around the 1.5 hour mark (exactly when will vary on the discussion).

This is a screen-free classroom to better facilitate discussion and learning. If you have electronic texts, you may have an e-reader or tablet that is NOT connected to the internet.

Required Co-curricular Activities

During class time this semester we will visit the new National Museum of African American History & Culture as well as the Philips Collection. We will also have one guest visitor and attendance to all
these activities (during class time) are required.

**Suggested Co-curricular Activities**

Washington DC is a tremendous resource for any student of cultural histories. World-class museums are free and easily accessible—so take advantage! In particular I recommend the National Gallery of Art, The Hirshhorn and the Freer-Sackler Galleries in addition to the two we will visit together.

**Your Instructor**