

Field

Literature and Culture

Lecturer

Dr Krystian Grądz

Topic

Representation(s) in American Literary and Visual Culture(s)

Seminar aims and description

This interdisciplinary seminar offers an introduction to major issues in, and influential scholarly debates about, representation(s) in American literary and visual culture(s), including movies and TV series. In investigating recent directions in critical theory, we will discuss a number of both classic and recently-published works on such topics as the theory of the gaze, feminism(s), constructions of the race, sexuality, gender, melancholy, depression, to name just a few. The seminar is designed to enable students to critically approach various representations of bodies and ideas that appear in generally-conceived public discourses.

The topics of your MA papers might include:

- body in literature and movies (e.g. abjection or/and desire)
- minorities (African-American, Asian-American, Latino/a, queer)
- feminism
- dying and death in film and literature
- modernism and postmodernism
- transmediality
- fashion studies
- depression and melancholy
- gender and queer studies
- photography studies
- trauma studies

Sample bibliography:

- Barrett, Terry. 2020. *Criticizing Photographs: An Introduction to Understanding Images*. Bloomsbury Academic.
- Baudrillard, Jean. 1994. *Simulacra and Simulation*, trans. Sheila F. Glaser. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Butler, Judith. *Bodies that Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex"*. Routledge.
- Casper, Monica J. and Eric Wertheimer. 2016. *Critical Trauma Studies: Understanding Violence, Conflict, and Memory in Everyday Life*. New York University Press.
- Connor, Steven. 1997. *Postmodernist Culture: An Introduction to Theories of the Contemporary*. Oxford, Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishers.
- Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality*, vol. 1. Vintage Books.
- Foucault, Michel. 1990. *The History of Sexuality*, vol. 2. Vintage Books.
- Hall, Stuart (ed.). 2013. *Representation*. Sage.
- Hutcheon, Linda. 2002 [1989]. *The Politics of Postmodernism*. London, New York: Routledge.
- Hutcheon, Linda. 1988. *A Poetics of Postmodernism: History, Theory, Fiction*. London, New York: Routledge.
- Jameson, Fredric. 1991. *Postmodernism: Or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Nealon, Jeffrey T. 2012. *Post-Postmodernism: Or, the Cultural Logic of Just-in-Time Capitalism*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Klibansky, Raymond, et al. 2019. *Saturn and Melancholy: Studies in the History of Natural Philosophy, Religion, and Art*. McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Kristeva, Julia. 1982. *Powers of Horror*. Columbia UP.
- Lyotard, Jean-François. 1984. *Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Mbembe, Achille. 2019. *Necropolitics*. Duke UP.
- Scarry, Elaine. 1985. *The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World*. Oxford UP.