
Surveillance and Orientalism

Fang Th 2:30-5:30 (C110)

Office Hours: T, Th 1:30-2:30 and by apptmt

Social and spatial monitoring is widely recognized as a defining aspect of modern life, with interest in the subject usually debating its consequences for liberal democracy. The critical and historical study of surveillance, however, is dominated by western case studies—despite the fact that imperial and colonial power exerted an important role in establishing early forms of civil and territorial control, and that racial and cultural difference pervades current discourse about identifying individuals and the means by which to regulate them. “East” and “West” belong to—and may be preeminent in—a dialectic most often conceptualized through the conflict of individual and state, profit and civility, knowledge and obscurity, body and data. In the post-9/11 world, perennial questions about the politics of surveillance may recall the “clash of civilizations.” But the heralds of freedom and the sufferers of paranoia may be very different from their nineteenth-century formulations.

- 1 [8/30] **Big Brother**
Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (Part One)
Said, *Orientalism* (Introduction and Chap. 1 [pp.1-110])
- 2 [9/6] Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (Parts Two and Three)
Giddens, “Modernity, Totalitarianism, and Critical Theory”
- 3 [9/13] **Ascending Power**
Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (Parts One and Two [pp.3-131])
Kafka, “In the Penal Colony”
- 4 [9/20] **Descending Power**
Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (Parts Three and Four [pp.135-293])
Arnold, “The Colonial Prison”

4:00 pm: Circuits of Empire: India as Metropole conference, keynote address
Ania Loomba: “Caste, Sexuality, and the Limits of Liberalism”
- 5 [9/27] **Empire**
Kipling, *Kim* (Chaps. 1-9)
Said, “The Pleasures of Imperialism”

- 6 [10/4] Kipling, *Kim* (Chaps. 10-15)
Miller, "The Novel and the Police"
- 7 [10/11] **Consumerism**
Huxley, *Brave New World* (Chaps. 1-8)
Marx, Gary T. "The New Surveillance"
- 8 [10/18] Huxley, *Brave New World* (Chaps. 9-18)
Deleuze, "Postscript to the Societies of Control"
- 9 [10/25] **Decolonization**
Battle of Algiers
Fanon, "Concerning Violence"
- 10 [11/1] **Individual Paper Conferences**
- 11 [11/8] **Technology**
Blade Runner
Norris and Armstrong, "A History of Photographic Surveillance"
Silverman, "Back to the Future"
- 12 [11/15] **Postcolonialism**
Infernal Affairs
Law, "Hong Kong undercover"
- 13 [11/29] **Globalization**
Žižek, "Big Brother, or the Triumph of the Gaze over the Eye"
Nakamura, "Interfaces of Identity"
- 14 [12/6] **Final Papers Due***
- 12/7 Optional screening: *Battle of Algiers*
Museum of Fine Arts, 7 pm
- *papers on *The Battle of Algiers* may be submitted Monday, Dec 10
(e-mail Word 5 pm)

Required Texts:

Said, *Orientalism*
Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*
Kipling, Kim
Orwell, 1984
Huxley, *Brave New World*

Films (available on Reserve):

Battle of Algiers (Gillo Pontecorvo, Italy/Algeria, 1966)
Blade Runner (Ridley Scott, USA, 1982)
Infernal Affairs (Alan Mak, Lau Wai-keung, HK, 2002)

Critical Readings (available on e-Reserve):

Arnold, D. (1994). The Colonial Prison: Power, Knowledge and Penology in Nineteenth-Century India. *Subaltern Studies VIII: essays in honour of Ranajit Guha*. D. Arnold and D. Hardiman. New Delhi, Oxford University Press: 148-184.

Deleuze, G. (1992). "Postscript on the Societies of Control." *October* 59: 3-7.

Fanon, F. (1963). Concerning Violence. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York, Grove Press: 35-106.

Giddens, A. (1981). Modernity, Totalitarianism, and Critical Theory. *A contemporary critique of historical materialism: The Nation-State and Violence*. Berkeley, University of California Press. 2: 294-341.

Law, W.-s. (2008). "Hong Kong Undercover: An Approach to 'Collaborative Colonialism' " *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 9(4): 524-525.

Marx, G. T. (1988). The New Surveillance. *Undercover: police surveillance in America*. Berkeley, University of California Press: 206-233.

Miller, D. A. (1988). The Novel and the Police. *The Novel and the Police*. Berkeley, University of California Press: 1-32.

Nakamura, L. (2009). "Interfaces of Identity: Oriental Traitors and Telematic Profiling in 24." *Camera Obscura* 24(170): 109-133.

Norris, C. and G. Armstrong (1999). A History of Photographic Surveillance: the rise of CCTV. *The maximum surveillance society: the rise of CCTV*. Oxford; New York, Berg.

Silverman, K. (1991). "Back to the Future." *Camera Obscura* 9(3 27): 108-132.

Zižek, S (2002). *Big Brother, or the Triumph of the Gaze over the Eye*. CTRL [space]. Thomas Levin et. al. Cambridge, Mass, MIT Press: 224-227.

Requirements and Class Policies:

Opening Question Presentations: At least twice during the semester, you will be responsible for developing a set of questions to initiate class discussion. These questions do not need to indicate a thorough understanding of the assigned texts, but they should offer a way to begin discussing the day's reading. An effective way to do this is to generate a series of questions centering upon an issue or passage that sparked your interest or inquiry. For example, you may start with a term, line, image or idea in one of the assigned texts, and raise questions about the function of that passage within the text as a whole. You might then expand your questions to connect those thoughts to the other assigned texts, and/or ask questions connecting your interest to the assigned critical reading. You should be prepared for interruptions and for ways of connecting your questions to the comments of your peers. Remember, your objective in this assignment is to spark inquiry and sustain discussion. Don't worry if you feel uncertain about your assigned texts—often the best questions are the simple ones that everyone shares.

Seminar Participation: In a graduate seminar, active discussion constitutes the core of learning. At least once in the semester I will provide you with an informal evaluation of your contributions to the course. Please check with me if you have any questions or concerns about your participation in the course.

Seminar Paper: At the end of the semester you will submit an 18-25 page critical essay on a topic related to the themes of surveillance and orientalism (please confirm your topic with me if you are interested in texts that were not assigned in class). You should think of this paper as the start of what might become a published article. You may find it helpful to identify an interest fairly early in the semester. Not only will it give you more time for writing and research; you may also be able to tailor your Opening Question presentations around your interest.

Attendance: All students are permitted a maximum of two absences, regardless of reason. With every additional absence beyond those first two, your final grade will automatically be dropped a half grade.

Grade Point Calculation:

Opening Question Presentations	35%
Seminar Participation	30%
Seminar Paper	35%
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	100%

Additional Study

Primary Texts:

Caché (Michael Haneke, Germany, 2005)
Coetzee, J.M. *Waiting for the Barbarians* (1980)
Chan is Missing (Wayne Wang, USA, 1982)
Chinatown (Roman Polanski, USA, 1974)
Conrad, Joseph. *Under Western Eyes* (1911)
De Quincey, Thomas. *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* (1821)
Garton Ash, Timothy. *The File* (1997)
Johnson, Adam. *The Orphan Master's Son* (2012)
Kafka, Franz. *The Trial* (1925)
Larkin, Emma. *Finding George Orwell in Burma* (2006)
Lee, Chang-rae. *Native Speaker* (1995)
The Manchurian Candidate (John Frankenheimer, USA, 1962)
Orwell, George. *Burmese Days* (1934)
Sans Soleil (Chris Marker, France, 1983)
Strange Days (Kathryn Bigelow, USA, 1995)

Critical Texts:

Bogard, *The Simulation of Surveillance*
Chun, *Control and Freedom*
Dandeker, *Surveillance, Power, and Modernity*
Davis, "Fortress LA," in *City of Quartz*
Hager, *Secret Power*
Hier, *The Surveillance Studies Reader*
Huang, *Charlie Chan: The Untold Story of America's No. 1 Son*
Klein, *Cold War Orientalism*
Levine, et. al. *CTRL [space]*
Mamdani, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*
Mirzoeff, *Right to Look*
Sengoopta, *Imprint of the Raj*
Shearing and Stenning, "From the Panopticon to Disneyland: the invention of a discipline"
Torpey, *The Invention of the Passport*

Surveillance and Society (on-line journal): www.surveillance-and-society.org