

SCREEN CULTURE

Spring 2009

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Lee Siegel

Office: RAB, 205 F; Hours: By appointment.

Course Requirements: A midterm and final exam, both of which will be based almost entirely on material that has been covered in class, so coming to the lectures and discussions is a must. Several 1-2 page papers will be assigned throughout the semester and graded on a pass/fail basis.

Books:

Art and Illusion by Ernst Gombrich  
Ways of Seeing by John Berger  
On Photography by Susan Sontag  
A Method to Their Madness by Foster Hirsch  
Society of the Spectacle by Guy Debord  
Everything That's Bad is Good For You by Steven Johnson  
Against the Machine by Lee Siegel

Syllabus to May 13th

February 9th: Acting as participation. Lecture on and discussion of Method acting. Film: On the Waterfront.

February 12th: Film: The Godfather

February 16th: Discussion of the films.

February 19th: Discuss of Brando films continued.

February 23rd: Guest lecturer.

February 26th: Last Tango in Paris

March 2nd: Lecture: David Mamet and the anti-participatory style of acting.

March 5th: Film: House of Games

March 9th: Discussion of film.

March 12th: Midterm exam.

NB: READINGS ARE TO BE COMPLETED FOR THE DAY THEY ARE ASSIGNED.

March 23rd: Discussion of Method Acting versus Mamet's theory of acting.

March 26th: Film: Glengarry Glen Ross

March 30<sup>th</sup> – Discussion of the way we look and see. Reading for today: John Berger's *Ways of Seeing*, pages 7-34.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Continued discussion of visuality: Back to the camera. Reading for today: Susan Sontag's *On Photography*, chapters titled "In Plato's Cave" and "The Heroism of Vision."

April 6<sup>th</sup> – Television as intimate, domesticated image. Viewing of "The Sopranos."

April 9<sup>th</sup> – Viewing of "The Sopranos" and discussion.

April 13<sup>th</sup> – More discussion of "The Sopranos." Viewing of "Friends." Read to page 62 in Steven Johnson's *Everything Bad is Good for You*.

April 16<sup>th</sup> – Viewing of "Friends." Cable versus network television. Television vs. Film. Pages 62 to 136 in Johnson's book.

April 20<sup>th</sup> – New Media versus Old. Pages 136 to 199 in Johnson's book.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Shakespeare's birthday—no class! Only kidding. Finish Johnson's book. Read introduction to *Against the Machine*.

April 27<sup>th</sup> – Part One of *Against the Machine*.

April 30<sup>th</sup> – Finish *Against the Machine*.

May 4<sup>th</sup> – Final observations.

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Final Exam. 12:00 to 3:00 in this room.