

**Cinema and Violence COLI 331E section 03 Irmak Ertuna**  
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**office hrs: T R 10-11 study carrel 3698 or by appt.**

### **Course Description**

Through the films and readings we will engage in the fundamental questions on the essence and uses of technology. Debating against the apocalyptic visions that foresee the end of humanity in popular culture as well as in certain philosophical traditions, we will try to understand what might be the real cause of our fears of domination, loss of control and imminent destruction at the face of developing technologies. We will try to understand how the depiction of a violent relationship between humans and machines that prevail in mainstream narrative cinema involve a certain politics that define what “human” is or should be. Films and readings that highlight various positions and problems concerning our troubled relationship to technology will hopefully guide you into forming your own critical thoughts.

### **Assignments and Grading**

Midterm (40%): Take-home exam with short-essay questions on films and readings. ***(As an alternative to the midterm exam you can write a 4-5 page essay based on a topic I will assign. Students who choose this alternative should contact me at least a week before the midterm date.)***

Paper (40%): 4-5 page essay on the assigned question.

Discussion, Quizzes, Assignments (20%): This portion of your grade is determined by your participation in class discussions, the reading-based assignments and announced quizzes.

### **Films\***

eXistenZ, Cronenberg

The Fly, Cronenberg

Crash, Cronenberg

Funny Games, Haneke

Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb, Kubrick

2001: A Space Odyssey, Kubrick

Blade Runner, Scott

\* These are the films that we will watch in full, we will also watch selected scenes from a variety of films such as Ghost in the Shell, Terminator, Robocop, Princess Mononoke, Metropolis, Modern Times among others.

## **Readings\***

### **REQUIRED:**

Selected Writings, Baudrillard (selected essays)

War in the Age of Intelligent Machines, De Landa (selected sections)

Beyond the Pleasure Principle, Freud

Civilization and Its Discontents, Freud

Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays, Heidegger\*\* (selected sections)

Information Bomb, Virilio (selected sections)

Cyborg Manifesto, Haraway

<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/HPS/Haraway/CyborgManifesto.html>

Capital, Marx <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch15.htm>

Understanding Media, McLuhan

[http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/irvinem/theory/McLuhan-](http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/irvinem/theory/McLuhan-Understanding_Media-l-1-7.html)

[Understanding\\_Media-l-1-7.html](http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/irvinem/theory/McLuhan-Understanding_Media-l-1-7.html)

### **RECOMMENDED:**

How We Became Posthuman, Hayles

Speed and Politics, Virilio

\* You can purchase these books in any edition and from any bookstore including the campus bookstore. If you don't want to purchase them for whatever reason make sure you have an access to these texts in any other way (library, web, etc.)

\*\* The articles in this book can be found online:

<http://www.culturaleconomics.atfreeweb.com/Anno/Heidegger%20The%20Question%201954.htm>

\*\*\*You can find links to these readings in BlackBoard.

### **WARNING! BE SURE TO READ THE FOLLOWING:**

***This course involves films containing OBSCENE and VIOLENT images and language and have been rated NC-17 in U.S.A. and were even censored in and out of U.S.A. Enrollment in this class means that as a student you will be held responsible (in terms of grading) for these films although as a person you are free to disapprove the uses of this sort of imagery and language.***

***Any plagiarism (uncited use of sources, copying from a friend, etc.) will result in F without any excuses and discussions.***

## Tentative Schedule

Jan 29-31 Feb 5-7	<b>Introduction, How to watch a film critically</b> McLuhan, Selections from "Understanding Media"	Film: Funny Games
Feb 12-14 Feb 19-21	<b>Essence of Technology</b> Heidegger, "Question Concerning Technology" and short selections Marx, Selection from Ch.15 of Capital	Film: 2001: A Space Odyssey  Selections: Chaplin, Modern Times Lang, Metropolis
Feb 26-28 Mar 4-6	<b>Prosthesis and Civilization</b> Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents Freud, Beyond the Pleasure Principle	Film: Crash  Selections: Vertov, Man with a Movie Camera Verhoven, Robocop
Mar 11-13 Mar 18-20 ( <i>Midterms due this week</i> )	<b>Simulacra, Virtual Reality</b> Baudrillard, Selections from Selected Writings	Film: eXistenZ  Selections: Antonioni, Blow-Up
Apr 1-3 Apr 8-10	<b>War and Technology</b> De Landa, Selections from War in the Age of Intelligent Machines Virilio, Information Bomb (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14) Recommended: Virilio, Selections from Speed and Politics	Film: Dr. Strangelove  Selections: Cameron, Terminator Coppola, Apocalypse Now Gilliam, Brazil
Apr 15- 17 Apr 22-24	<b>Cyborgs, Posthuman</b> Haraway, "Cyborg Manifesto" Recommended: Hayles, Selections from How we Became Posthuman	Film: Blade Runner  Selections: Oshii, Ghost in the Shell
Apr 29- May 1	<b>Monsters of Technology or Arrogant Scientists</b>	Film: The Fly Selections: Frankenstein
May 6-8 ( <i>Papers due this week</i> )	<b>Conclusion, Last Remarks</b>	Selections: Miyazaki, Princess Mononoke