

## ANTH 380 - IMAGE, SOUND & CULTURE



Professor Philippe Leonard

FALL 2017

Tuesday 2:30-5:30PM

Peel 3475 Room 101

This course will consider the role of the image in thinking, dreaming, knowing, feeling and doing. What is it about the image that can draw us in—as in a photograph that we can't take our eyes off, (or one we can't bear to look at but do anyway)? How are images used to galvanize political action? Why also do we say that in a traumatic moment, "Images of my life passed before my eyes?" In this seminar we will consider the way filmmaker and anthropologists use images in their texts and films and we will take very seriously anthropology's "iconophobia" (Taylor 1996)—giving special attention to the alleged culpability of images in what is understood as the "pornography of violence" (Daniel 1996). In so doing, we will develop a definition of the image that is broad enough to encompass sound-images, thought-images, dream-images and even word-images. We will thus be asking, with Barthes (1997) what it is that is imagistic about the image and filmic about film. This investigation will lead us to notice the way images of one sort or another form the material out of which much anthropology is built. (Note: Students who have taken "Image, Sound and Culture" will be given priority in registering for "Sensory Ethnography" when it is next offered (Fall 2018)).

Authors to be considered include Jonathan Crary, Michael Taussig, Lucien Taylor, John Berger, Roland Barthes, and Walter Benjamin.