Subjectivity and Desire
ANTH 412
(Fall 2020)

Class Schedule T 11.30-2.30
Location Online Class

Professor Samuele Collu
Office Hours W 4.00-6.00 PM [Zoom Audio]
Office Location 734 Leacock
samuele.collu@mcgill.ca
Course Description
This seminar focuses on the role of desire in the making and unmaking of subjectivity. Engaging with readings in anthropology, psychoanalysis, critical theory, and philosophy we explore how affects, non-conscious fantasies, and images structure our ways to experience the world. Rethinking late modern attachments to screens and the realm of the visual, we read about affective and hypnotic ties, object-relations, spirit possession, fetishism, catharsis, romantic fantasies, and mystic melancholia.

Course Materials
Articles and book chapters will be found on myCourses.

General Information
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

If you have a disability, please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss the situation. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 398-6009 (online at www.mcgill.ca/osd) before you do this.

Course Structure and Requirements
This online seminar will consist in podcasts with lectures about the readings and periodic Zoom conversations which will be facilitated by two different students each time.

Responses
Throughout the semester, you must submit a one-page (1.15 spacing) weekly response to the reading materials in a shared on-line forum (Discussions section of myCourses). The response is not a summary but rather an open commentary to the texts. Your response must contain at least three significant quotes from the readings and one question that you are willing to share with the class seminar. The responses will be available to the other students through the forum. The student-facilitators will thus be able to draw from the responses in the forum to curate our bi-weekly conversation with questions, doubts, and points for discussion. Your participation to the forum through your weekly responses will constitute 30% of your grade.
Midterm
We will have a take home midterm exam. The prompt will be provided in class and it will address the reading material and our class discussions. If you keep up with the readings and attend class, it will be a straightforward exam. The midterm exam will constitute 20% of your grade.

Participation
Even if this course is taught remotely, your participation will still be evaluated. I will take into account, among other things, your participation to the live Zoom sessions, your capacity to follow the instructions given in the audio-lectures (which will be a sign of your engagement with the audio-materials), and timely turn-ins. Your participation will be 10% of your grade.

Facilitator Role
Your discussant/facilitator role will constitute 10% of the grade.

Final Paper
At the end of the class you will have to turn in a final paper (3 pages long). A prompt will be provided the week before the final is due. The final paper will constitute 30% of your grade. Please note that you will lose 20% of your grade for each day you are late.

Grading guideline
Students who fulfill the course requirements and do good work will receive a B, those who fulfill the requirements and do excellent work will receive an A, and those who fall short in any aspect of the course will receive significantly lower grades.

Grade Distribution
Weekly Responses 30%
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Paper 30%
Class Participation 10%
Discussant Role 10%
Mark your Calendars!

Responses (online submission)
Every Monday by 6 PM

Take Home Midterm Exam (online submission)
Friday October 16 at 9 PM

The Final Paper (online submission)
Tuesday December 14 at 9 PM
Week 1 – Introduction

Tuesday, September 8
Subjectivity, affective attachments, and the imagination

Week 2 – The Affective Tie

Tuesday, September 15
Freud, Sigmund. 2010. *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego* (Ch. IV-IX)

Recommended
Freud, Sigmund “An Outline of Psychoanalysis” in *The Penguin Freud Reader* (1-63)

Week 3 – The Pictographic Force of History

Tuesday, September 22
Freud, Sigmund and Joseph Breuer. 1985. “Case Histories: Fraulein Anna O.” in *Studies on Hysteria* (pp. 21-47)

Recommended
Stevenson, Lisa. 2014. “Facts and Images” in *Life Beside Itself* (pp.21-48)
Fanon, Frantz. 1965. “Colonial War and Mental Disorders” in *The Wretched of the Earth* (181-199)
Week 4– The Mystic Body (A Case Study)

Tuesday, September 29
Avila, Teresa of. The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila by Herself (1988, Introduction, Ch. 1-5, 8, 10-18, 20, 29-30, 38)

Recommended

Week 5 – Refused Identification

Tuesday, October 6

Recommended

Week 6 – Desiring-Machines

Tuesday, October 13
Deleuze, Gilles, and Felix Guattari. 2009. Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia (Preface by Michel Foucault, Introduction, Ch.1)

Recommended
Week 7 – Phantasmatic Vision

Tuesday, October 20
Desjarlais, Robert. 2018. The Blind Man: A Phantasmography (selections)

Recommended
Carbone, Mauro. 2015. The Flesh of Images: Merleau-Ponty between Painting and Cinema. SUNY Press
Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. 1968. The Visible and the Invisible (Ch. 4).

Week 8 – Hesitation

Tuesday, October 27

Recommended
Bergson, Henri. Matter and Memory (Ch1, 2, Summary and Conclusion)

Week 9 – Affects

Tuesday, November 3
Recommended

Week 10 – Love/Fantasy
Tuesday, November 10
Barthes, Roland. 1978. *A Lover’s Discourse: Fragments* (select 5-10 “figures”)

Recommended

Week 11 – Cruel Optimism
Tuesday, November 17

Recommended

Week 12 – Lines of Force, Lines of Subjectification
Tuesday, November 24
Week 13 – Class Review

Tuesday, December 1
Class discussion and review

Final Paper due Tuesday December 14 at 9 PM