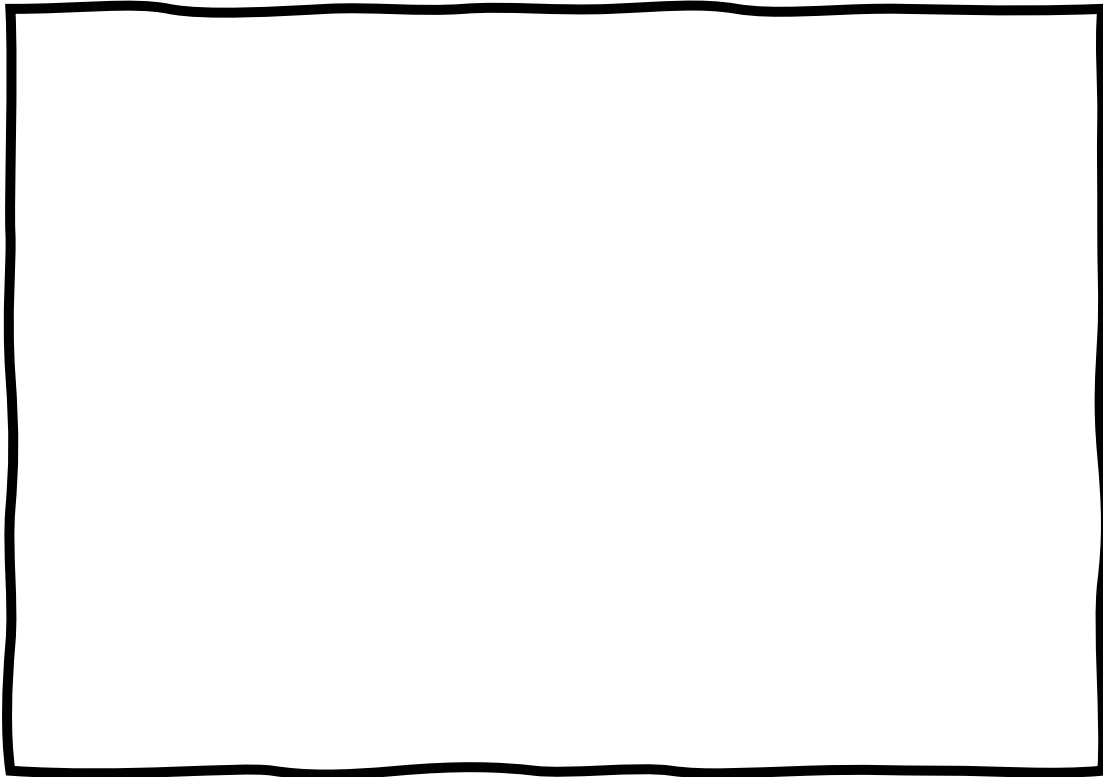


Subjectivity and Desire

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

Borch-Jacobsen, Mikkel. 1993. “The Primal Band” *The Emotional Tie: Psychoanalysis, Mimesis, and Affect* (pg. 1-14)

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

Brennan, Teresa. 2004. *The Transmission of Affect*. Cornell University Press.

Mazzarella, William. 2017. *The Mana of Mass Society*. University of Chicago Press.

Week 3 – The Pictographic Force of History

Tuesday, September 22

Pandolfo, Stefania. 2018. “The Jinn and the Pictogram” in *Knot of The Soul* (89-99)

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

Ellenberger, Henri. 1994. “Sigmund Freud and Psychoanalysis” in *The Discovery of the Unconscious*, (Ch7, pp. 480-489)

Recommended

Collu, Samuele. 2019. “[Knot of the Soul: Madness, Psychoanalysis, Islam](#).” *Political Theology* 20 (2): 188–90.

Foucault, Michel, 1993. “Dream, Imagination, and Existence” in Binswanger, Ludwig. 1993. *Dream and Existence* (31-80)

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)

Largier, Niklaus. 2013. “‘Divine Suffering – Divine Pleasure: Martyrdom, Sensuality, and the Art of Delay.’ *Figurationen* 12/1 (2011), 67-79.”

Recommended

Brennan, Teresa. 2004. “The Transmission of Affects in the Clinic” in *The Transmission of Affects* (pp. 24-50).

Certeau, Michel de. 1995. *The Mystic Fable, Volume One*. University of Chicago Press.

Hollywood, Amy. 2002. *Sensible Ecstasy: Mysticism, Sexual Difference, and the Demands of History*. University of Chicago Press.

Week 5 –Refused Identification

Tuesday, October 6

Butler, Judith. 1997. “Melancholy Gender / Refused Identification” in *The Psychic Life of Power: Theories in Subjection* (132-150)

Freud, Sigmund. 2006. “Mourning and Melancholia” in *The Penguin Freud Reader*. Penguin Books (310-326)

Recommended

Butler, Judith. 1997. “Psychic Inceptions” in *The Psychic Life of Power: Theories in Subjection* (167-200)

Butler, Judith. 2011. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. Routledge.

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

Parr, Adrian. 2010. *The Deleuze Dictionary*. Edinburgh University Press.

Zizek, Slavoj. 2003. *Organs without Bodies: Deleuze and Consequences*. Routledge

Week 7 – Phantasmatic Vision

Tuesday, October 20

Berardi, Franco “Bifo.” 2013. “The Image Dispositif.” *Cultural Studies Review* 11 (2): 64–68
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
Collu, Samuele. 2019. “[The Datum: Theory and the Feverish Madness of Vision](#).” Society for
Cultural Anthropology.
Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. 1968. *The Visible and the Invisible* (Ch. 4).

Week 8 – Hesitation

Tuesday, October 27

Al-Saji, Alia. 2014. “A Phenomenology of Hesitation: Interrupting Racializing Habits of Seeing” in
Living Alterities Emily Lee (pp. 133-150).

Recommended

Bergson, Henri. *Matter and Memory* (Ch1, 2, Summary and Conclusion)
Fanon, Frantz. 2008. “Preface, Introduction,” “The Lived Experience of the Black Man,” “The Black Man
and Recognition, Conclusion” in *Black Skin, White Masks*.
Marriott, David. 2010. “On Racial Fetishism.” *Qui Parle* 18 (2): 215–48.
Moten, Fred. 2017. *Black and Blur*. Duke University Press.

Week 9 – Affects

Tuesday, November 3

Massumi, Brian. 2002. “The Autonomy of Affect,” *Parables for the Virtual* (23-45)
Anderson, Ben. 2009. “Affective Atmospheres.” *ResearchGate* 2 (2): 77–81.

Recommended

- Collu, Samuele. 2019. "[Refracting Affects: Affect, Psychotherapy, and Spirit Dis-Possession.](#)" *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* 43, no. 2 (June 1, 2019): 290–314.
- Favret-Saada, Jeanne. 2015 "Being Affected," in the *Anti-Witch* (97-107)
- Stewart, Kathleen. 2011. "Atmospheric Attunements." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 29, no. 3: 445–53
- Leys, Ruth. 2011. "The Turn to Affect: A Critique." *Critical Inquiry* 37: 434–72.

Week 10 –Love/Fantasy

Tuesday, November 10

- Berlant, Lauren 2012. "Love" in *Desire/Love* (69-112)
- Barthes, Roland. 1978. *A Lover's Discourse: Fragments* (select 5-10 "figures")

Recommended

- Lacan, Jacques. 2006. "The Mirror Stage as Formative of the / Function" in *Ecrits* (75-81).
- Illouz, Eva. 2012. "The Demand for Recognition: Love and the Vulnerability of the Self" in *Why Love Hurts: A Sociological Explanation* (pp. 109-142).

Week 11 –Cruel Optimism

Tuesday, November 17

- Berlant, Lauren, "Cruel Optimism," *The Affect Theory Reader* (2010, 93-117)
- Sara Ahmed, "Happy Objects," *The Affect Theory Reader* (2010, 29-51)

Recommended

- Ahmed, Sara. 2006. *Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others* (Intro, Ch1-2) \
- Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. 1990. *Epistemology of the Closet*. University of California Press.
- Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. 2013. *Phenomenology of Perception*. Routledge.

Week 12 – Lines of Force, Lines of Subjectification

Tuesday, November 24

- Agamben, Giorgio. 2009. "What Is an Apparatus?" in *What Is an Apparatus? And Other Essays*.
- Deleuze, Gilles. 1992. "What Is a Dispositif?" In *Michel Foucault, Philosopher: Essays*, (159–66)

Week 13 – Class Review

Tuesday, December 1

Class discussion and review

Final Paper due Tuesday December 14 at 9 PM