

Anthropology 314 (Fall 2020)  
Psychological Anthropology



Class Schedule MW 8.35-9.55 AM  
Location Online Course

Professor **Samuele Collu**  
Office Hours Wednesdays 4PM-6PM [via Zoom audio]  
Office Location 734 Leacock  
[samuele.collu@mcgill.ca](mailto:samuele.collu@mcgill.ca)

## Teaching Assistant

Amélie Ward ([amelie.ward@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:amelie.ward@mail.mcgill.ca))

## Course Description

This class explores psychic life as a central site to understand the contemporary condition, which seems characterized by rising waves of precarity, anxiety, depression, and affective exhaustion. Through an engagement with affect theory, queer theory, phenomenology, psychoanalysis, and media theory we engage with a psycho-political anthropology that addresses how the psyche's affective economy participates in compulsive practices of extraction, exploitation, and intersectional violence. We will read about affective attachments, the gendered transmission of affects, romantic fantasies, racialized ways of seeing, happy objects, group psychology, digital intimacy, and smartphone addiction. The class follows lines of inquiry about the care of the self and others in order to imagine habitable forms of life within our precarious and screenified existence.

## Suggested Books

Gregg, Melissa, and Gregory Seigworth (eds) 2010. *The Affect Theory Reader*. Duke University Press.  
Han, Byung-Chul. 2017. *Psychopolitics: Neoliberalism and New Technologies of Power*. Verso Books.

## Course Materials

Articles, audio-lectures, 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/](http://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](http://www.mcgill.ca/osd)) before you do this.

## Course Structure and Requirements

This course will be taught mostly asynchronously. This will allow a wider accessibility but also give us some rest from our Zoomified forms of life. With possible exceptions and changes, every Monday at 10 AM (EST) a podcast with a lecture about the week's readings will be posted. On Wednesdays we will have a second podcast, or a class discussion (on Zoom), and/or group work. **Listening to the audio-lectures is a class requirement.** By Wednesday mornings you are expected to have listened to Mondays

podcasts. Instructions about weekly responses, midterms, and finals will be given during the audio-lectures first and posted on-line only after. Synchronic attendance to the live Zoom sessions is not mandatory but it is highly recommended.

### Responses

Throughout the semester you will have to submit a total of **five one-page response** (1.15 spacing) to the reading materials. Prompts will be provided, but as a general requirement the response must contain at least three significant quotes from the texts. Week-specific instructions will be given in the podcasts. The responses will have to be uploaded to myCourses. **Late responses will not be accepted.** The responses will constitute **30% of your grade** (every response is worth 6% of your grade and you will be graded on a 0-6 scale).

### Midterm

We will have a take home midterm exam. The prompt will address the reading material and the lectures. 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.**

### Video-Project

The last week of the class we will work on group video-project which will be evaluated and will constitute the **10%** of your grade. Finding a way to participate in your group video-project, even if through asynchronous contributions, is a requirement for this part of the grade.

### Participation

Even if this course is taught remotely, your participation will still be evaluated. We 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), your participation through office hours with the TA or the instructor, and timely turn-ins. Your participation will be **10% of your 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**

Responses (5)	30%
Midterm Exam (3 pages)	20%
Final Paper (3 pages)	30%
Class Participation	10%
Video Project	10%

### **Mark your Calendars!**

#### **Responses (online submission)**

Friday September 18 at 6 PM (1)

Friday October 2 at 6 PM (2)

Friday October 23 at 6 PM (3)

Friday November 6 at 6 PM (4)

Friday November 20 at 6 PM (5)

Take Home Midterm Exam: due **Saturday October 19 at 12 PM** (online submission)

Final Paper: due **Monday December 14 at 9 PM** (online submission)

## PART 1 – AFFECTS

### Week 1 – Anthropology and the Present

#### Wednesday, September 2–Introduction

Affective attachments, compulsive repetition, screens, and psychic life

### Week 2 – Psychic Identification

#### Monday, September 7– (Labor Day Holiday)

#### Wednesday, September 9–Group Psychology

Freud, Sigmund. 2010. *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego* (Ch. IV-VIII).

#### Recommended

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

Rose, Nikolas.1998. “How should one do the history of the self?” in *Inventing Our Selves: Psychology, Power, and Personhood*. Cambridge University Press (pp. 22-49).

### Week 3 – Affective Dumping

#### Monday, September 14–The Transmission of Affect

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

#### Wednesday, September 16–Living Attention

Oliver, Kelly. 2012. “Living a Tension” in *Living Attention: On Teresa Brennan* (pp. 13-22).

#### Recommended

Brennan, Teresa. 2004. “Introduction’ in *The Transmission of Affects* (pp. 1-23).

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

Collu, Samuele. 2019. “[Refracting Affects: Affect, Psychotherapy, and Spirit Dis-Possession.](#)” *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* 43 (2): 290–314.

**Response 1 Due Friday (9/18) at 6 PM**

## Week 4 – Affects

### Monday, September 21–The Autonomy of Affect

Massumi, Brian. 1995. “The Autonomy of Affect,” *Cultural Critique*, No. 31 (pp. 83-109).

### Wednesday, September 23–Mimesis

Gibbs, Anna. 2010. “Sympathy, Synchrony, and Mimetic Communication” in *The Affect Theory Reader* (pp. 186-205).

### Recommended

Favret-Saada, Jeanne. 2015 “[Being Affected](#),” in the *Anti-Witch* (pp. 97-107).

Manning, Erin. 2013. “Toward A Leaky Sense of Self” in *Always More Than One* (pp. 1-30).

Mazzarella, 2009, “Affect: What is it Good For?” in Dube, Saurabh. *Enchantments of Modernity: Empire, Nation, Globalization*. Routledge India.

Seigworth, Gregg and Gregg, Melissa. 2010. “An Inventory of Shimmers,” in *The Affect Theory Reader* (pp. 1-28).

Shouse, Eric. 2005. “[Feeling, Emotion, Affect](#)” *M/C Journal*, Vol. 8 Issue 6.

## Week 5 – Pedagogic Atmospheres

### Monday, September 28– Atmospheres

Anderson, Ben. 2009. “Affective Atmospheres.” *ResearchGate* 2 (2): 77–81.

### Wednesday, September 30–Reading, Listening, Learning During COVID-19

Stewart, Kathleen. 2011. “Atmospheric Attunements.” *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 29, no. 3: 445–53

### Recommended

Heidegger, Martin. 2008. “Being-There as state-of-mind,” *Being and Time* (pp. 126-134)

**Response 2 Due Friday (10/2) at 6 PM**

## Week 6– Happy Objects

### Monday, October 5– Affect Aliens

Ahmed, Sara. 2010. “Happy Objects,” in *The Affect Theory Reader* (pp. 29-51).

### Wednesday, October 7–The Romantic Fantasy

Illouz, Eva. 2012. “From Romantic Fantasy to Disappointment” in *Why Love Hurts: A Sociological Explanation* (pp. 109-142).

#### Recommended

Ahmed, Sara. 2006. “Orientations: Toward a Queer Phenomenology.” *GLQ*: 12 (4): 543–74.

Berlant, Lauren. 2012. *Desire/Love*. Brooklyn, New York: Dead Letter Office.

Berlant, Lauren. 2010. “Cruel Optimism,” in *The Affect Theory Reader* (pp. 93-117).

## Week 7 –The Image Dispositif

### Monday, October 12 (Thanksgiving Holyday)

### Wednesday, October 14–Zoom Q&A

Berardi, Franco. 2013. “The Image Dispositif.” *Cultural Studies Review* 11 (2): 64–68.

**MIDTERM due Saturday October 19 at 12 PM**

## PART 2 – PSYCHO-POLITICS

### Week 8 – Hesitation

#### Monday, October 19– Interrupting Racialized Vision

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

#### Wednesday, October 21– All is Given (Ontological Expansiveness)

Al-Saji, Alia. 2014. “A Phenomenology of Hesitation: Interrupting Racializing Habits of Seeing” in *Living Alterities* Emily Lee (pp. 150-162).

#### Recommended

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

## Response 3 Due Friday (10/23) at 6 PM

### Week 9 – Compulsive Repetition

#### Monday, October 26 – Psychopower

Han, Byung-Chul. 2017. *Psychopolitics: Neoliberalism and New Technologies of Power* (Ch1-3, 6, 10-13)

#### Wednesday, October 28 – Cybernetic Loops

Schüll, Natasha Dow. 2006. "Machines, Medication, Modulation: Circuits of Dependency and Self Care in Las Vegas." *Culture Medicine and Psychiatry* 30: 223-247

#### Recommended

Clough, Patricia Ticineto. 2018. *The User Unconscious: On Affect, Media, and Measure*. University of Minnesota Press.

Deleuze, Gilles. 1992. "Postscript on the Societies of Control." *October* 59: 3–7

Deleuze, Gilles. 1992. "What Is a Dispositif?" In *Michel Foucault, Philosopher: Essays*, (159–66)

Haraway, Donna Jeanne. 2016 [1984] "A Cyborg Manifesto" in *Manifestly Haraway* (5-90).

Collu, Samuele, 2020. "[The Zoomification of Everyday Life](#)," Culture, Mind and Brain Roundable on the "New Normal"

### Week 10 – The Noonday Demon

#### Monday, November 2– Depression

Cvetkovich, Ann. 2012. *Depression: A Public Feeling* (pp. 29-43, 85-114).

#### Wednesday, November 4 –The Burnout Society

Han, Byung-Chul. 2015. *The Burnout Society* (pp. 1-34, 35-51).

#### Recommended

Kitanaka, Junko. 2012. *Depression in Japan: Psychiatric Cures for a Society in Distress*. Princeton University Press.

Wilson, Elizabeth A. 2015. "The Biological Unconscious:" in *Gut Feminism* (45-67).

## Response 4 Due Friday (11/6) at 6 PM



## Week 11 –Compulsion, Hesitation, Transformation

### Monday, November 9– Technologies of The Self (Interview with TBD)

Foucault, Michel. 1988. “Technologies of the Self” in *Technologies of the Self: A Seminar with Michel Foucault*.

### Wednesday, November 11–Care of the Self (Interview with TBD)

Foucault, Michel. 1997. “The Ethics of the Concern for Self as a Practice of Freedom” in *Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth* (pp. 281-301)

### Recommended

Hadot, Pierre. 1995. “Spiritual Exercises” *Philosophy as a Way of Life: Spiritual Exercises from Socrates to Foucault* (pg . 81-215)

Guattari, Félix. 1995. “The Production of Subjectivity” in *Chaosmosis: An Ethico Aesthetic Paradigm* (pp. 1-33).

Rose, Nikolas.1998. *Inventing Our Selves: Psychology, Power, and Personhood*. Cambridge University Press.

## Week 12 – Screens

### Monday, November 16– Elements of Screenology

Huhtamo, Erkki. 2004. “Elements of Screenology: Toward an Archeology of the Screen.” *ICONICS*, VII: 31–82.

### Wednesday, November 18– Photographic, Cinematic, and Electronic Presence

Sobchack, Vivian Carol. 2004. “The Scene of the Screen” *Carnal Thoughts: Embodiment and Moving Image Culture* (pp. 135-162).

### Recommended

Carbone, Mauro. 2015. *The Flesh of Images: Merleau-Ponty between Painting and Cinema*. SUNY Press

Wajcman, Gérard. 2004. *Fenêtre: Chroniques du regard et de l'intime*. Editions Verdier.

**Response 5 Due Friday (11/20) at 6 PM**

## **Week 13 – Video-Project**

**Monday, November 23**–Once we know what we know...

Zoom Video-Project Meetings

**Wednesday, November 25**–Once we know what we know...

Class Review

## **Week 14 – Screenings and Class Review**

**Monday, November 30**

Video-Projects Screenings and Q&A

**Wednesday, December 2**

Video-Projects Screenings and Q&A

**FINAL PAPER due Monday December 14 at 9 PM (online submission)**