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
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Teaching Assistant
Amélie Ward (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

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/ 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 course will be taught mostly asynchronically. 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 asynchonic 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
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responses (5)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (3 pages)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper (3 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
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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

Week 3 – Affective Dumping

Monday, September 14 – The Transmission of Affect

Wednesday, September 16 – Living Attention

Recommended

Response 1 Due Friday (9/18) at 6 PM
Week 4 – Affects

Monday, September 21 – The Autonomy of Affect

Wednesday, September 23 – Mimesis

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

Week 5 – Pedagogic Atmospheres

Monday, September 28 – Atmospheres

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

Recommended

Response 2 Due Friday (10/2) at 6 PM
Week 6 – Happy Objects

Monday, October 5 – Affect Aliens

Wednesday, October 7 – The Romantic Fantasy

Recommended

Week 7 – The Image Dispositif

Monday, October 12 (Thanksgiving Holyday)

Wednesday, October 14 – Zoom Q&A

MIDTERM due Saturday October 19 at 12 PM

PART 2 – PSYCHO-POLITICS

Week 8 – Hesitation

Monday, October 19 – Interrupting Racialized Vision

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

Recommended

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

Recommended
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

Wednesday, November 4 – The Burnout Society
Han, Byung-Chul. 2015. The Burnout Society (pp. 1-34, 35-51).

Recommended

Response 4 Due Friday (11/6) at 6 PM
Week 11 – Compulsion, Hesitation, Transformation

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

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)

Week 12 – Screens

Monday, November 16 – Elements of Screenology

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

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

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)