Course Delivery Guide

EAST 560 / COMS 646
Screen Cultures and Media Arts/ Popular Media
Topic: “Media and Environment II”
Thursday 11:35am-1:25pm EST Zoom sessions plus asynchronous online activities

Prof. Yuriko Furuhata
Email: yuriko.furuhata@mcgill.ca
Office hours: Thursday 2:30pm-3:30pm EST on Zoom and by appointment

General platforms
Primary platforms for course delivery for this reading and discussion-based MA/PhD and advanced undergraduate seminar will be Zoom, supplemented by asynchronous activities on myCourses and email. All the readings will be made available on myCourses.

Zoom seminar sessions
Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our seminar will take place synchronously on Zoom at 11:30am EST on Thursdays. However, in order to accommodate for the challenges posed by the remote delivery, each Zoom session will run for 2 hours (or less) and will be supplemented by additional asynchronous activities on myCourses. We may record our seminar sessions and make them available to the registered members of the class who can only participate asynchronously – contingent on class consent.

Asynchronous activities on myCourses
In preparation for class, please write a short one- or two-paragraph response (approx. 200-300 words) to the readings assigned for the given week, and posted on myCourses by 11:00pm on Wednesday, the night before our scheduled class meetings on Thursday. The purpose of this weekly response assignment is to allow you to both identify and articulate the main threads of arguments and/or key issues from the readings before you come to the seminar. You can also frame your responses around questions raised by the texts, or difficulties in reading them. For instance, you may point to passages in the text that you find difficult to understand and want to discuss in class. After each class session, please post a one-paragraph response to the issues discussed in class and/or follow-up questions and thoughts on the issues, which we did not to discuss during the class time. Please post your after-class comments by Saturday at noon EST.

- If you are unable to synchronously participate in the Zoom class session, I will ask you not only to post a reading response for each week before the class, but also provide one example or case study pertinent to the readings and issues covered for that week. This example could be audio-visual (e.g. YouTube video), archival document, journalistic news, artwork, etc. Please make sure to provide a link to these documents or directly post them.
- Those of you who are able to synchronously participate in the Zoom class session, I will ask you to discuss this example provided by your fellow classmates who cannot join the
Zoom class session by responding to their posts on myCourses so that we can create opportunities for everyone to participate in class discussion.

The seminar is a place of inclusivity and equity, where all of us can freely and respectfully express and share ideas and work together towards addressing the issues pertinent to the course materials, including systemic racism, institutionalized inequity, social injustice as well as the need and ongoing efforts to decolonize knowledge production. This entails discussing sensitive materials that deal with legacies of imperialism and colonialism, including those by the former Japanese empire. The seminar offers opportunities for you to explore new ways of thinking, expressing and exchanging your ideas with your fellow classmates. Never hesitate to ask a question, even if you think it’s basic or trivial!

**Other assignments**

**More detailed instructions on each of these assignments are included in the syllabus**

There will be two in-class presentations (or pre-recorded video presentations as alternatives) associated with the midterm paper and the final paper.

- For the midterm paper, you will write a 6-8 pages (approx. 1500-2000 words) synthesis paper, analyzing one thread or topic raised from the readings before Oct 15.
- In addition to writing a paper, you will also prepare a 5-7 minutes class presentation on your topic and your analysis. To facilitate this presentation, please prepare a thesis statement that captures the gist of your argument; an abstract of your analysis (3-4 sentences); one visual image (e.g. a screen capture from a video, a photograph, a map, a flow chart, etc.) that is related to your topic to share with the class. During or before the class on Oct 22, please submit your abstract on myCourses. For those unable to participate synchronously, I will ask you to make a short (5 minutes) video presentation, posted on myCourses in advance.
- For the final paper, you will write a research paper on the topic of your choice. You may build on some of the ideas and topics you explored in the midterm paper. The essay must make substantial engagement with readings from the course (at least two of which should be new and not covered in your midterm paper or project). You may write a purely theoretical essay focusing on one conceptual problem or combine theoretical engagement and object analysis (e.g. film, visual artwork, music, architectural design, mass cultural form, social media phenomenon, political event, etc.). The total length of the paper should be 15-18 (approx. 3750-4500 words) pages.
- For the workshop, please prepare your 5-7 minutes presentation in the same manner as the midterm and submit a short abstract (3-4 sentences) with a bibliography before or during the class via myCourses. Please note that 5% out of 40% of the final grade allocated to this assignment will be based on the workshop presentation and the accompanying abstract. The remaining 35% will be based on your final paper itself. For those unable to participate synchronously, I will ask you to make a short (5 minutes) video presentation, posted on myCourses.