

Psychology 305: Visual Perception, 4 credits  
Professor James Cutting  
MWF 1:25-2:15 in 254 Uris

Fall '06  
Office: 270 Uris Hall  
Office Hours: Mon 9:15 to 10:45 or by appt  
email: jec7

## PERCEIVING IMAGES, PERCEIVING SPACE

Texts: A. Cole, *Perspective*. London: Dorling Kindersley, 1992  
B. London & J. Stone, *Short Course in Photography (6<sup>th</sup> ed.)*, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, 2005.  
S. McCloud, *Understanding comics*. Northampton, NY: Harper Perennial, 1993.  
W. J. Potter, *Media literacy*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. 2005

Grading: 20% each for: (a) Class participation in discussion; (b) Problems sets (5 total); (c) Midterm exam (prepared essays); (d) Final project and project presentation; and (e) Final exam (prepared essays)

### Syllabus

#### Week 0: **Introduction**

F 25 Aug: Introduction & Discussion: What is an image?

#### Week 1: **Art, lines, and being human**

readings: McCloud, Chapter 1&5, pp 2-23, 118-137; Potter, Chapter 9 & Appendix, pp. 154-166, 384-414

M 28 Aug & W 30 Aug: Paleolithic art, and the power of lines.

F 1 Sept: Discussion.

*First Problem Set Due: Alberti's Window*

#### Week 2: **Representations and projections**

readings: Cole, pp. 6-27; London & Stone, Chapter 9: pp. 181-203, Seeing like a camera

M 4 Sept & W 6 Sept: Representations & projections.

F 8 Sept: Discussion.

#### Week 3: **Geometries, invariants, and ordinally creating space**

readings: Cole, pp. 28-53; McCloud, Chapter 2, pp. 24-59

M 11 Sept & W 13 Sept: Invariants, geometry, & scaling space.

F 15 Sept: Discussion.

*Second Problem Set Due: Impossible Figures*

#### Week 4: **Perspective 1**

readings: Cole, pp. 56-62; McCloud, Chapter 3, pp 60-93.

M 18 Sept & W 20 Sept: Ordinal space; Uncle Sam.

F 22 Sept: Discussion.

#### Week 5: **Perspective 2**

reading: London & Stone, Chap 1, pp 3-27. Camera.

M 25 Sept, W 27 Sept, & F 29 Sept: Beyond linear perspective.

#### Week 6: **First photographs**

readings: London & Stone, Chapter 3-6, pp. 84-129, SKIM

M 2 Oct & W 4 Oct: Reproduction of images; Lines, mass, & shadow.

F 6 Oct: Discussion.

*Third Problem Set Due: Studies of Movement and Gait*

**Week 7: Painting and photographs**

readings: London & Stone, Chapters 2 & 7, pp. 28-52, 130-149. Lenses, Lighting

M 9 Oct: FALL BREAK

W 11 Oct: Lenses.

F 13 Oct: *Midterm exam, during the class period.*

**Week 8: Space beyond Leonardo's window**

reading: London & Stone, Chapter 8, pp. 148-178, Digital photography.

M 16 Oct, W 18 Oct, F 20 Oct: Lenses, panoramas, and view-cameras.

*Fourth Problem Set Due: Flip Book*

**Week 9: Representing motion**

readings: Cole, pp. 54-55; McCloud, Chapter 4, pp 94-117.

M 23 Oct & W 26 Oct: Representing motion and self-motion.

F 27 Oct: Discussion

**Week 10: Visual literacies**

readings: McCloud, Chapter 6, pp 138-161; Potter, Parts I & V, pp. 1-58, 281-325.

M 30 Oct: Literacy, reading, and eye movements

W 1 Nov: Movies, Porter & Edison's *The Great Train Robbery* + others

F 3 Nov: Movie, Sidney Lumet's *12 Angry Men* (part 1).

**Week 11: Television and computer-generated images**

readings: McCloud, Chapter 7, pp 162-184; Potter, Part II, pp. 59-148.

M 6 Nov: Movie, Sidney Lumet's *12 Angry Men* (part 2)

W 8 Nov: David Field on television

F 10 Nov: Aliasing in space and time.

*Fifth Problem Set Due: Aliasing*

**Week 12: On movies**

readings: Potter, Parts III, IV, & VI, pp. 168-279, 327-381. SKIM.

M 13 Nov & W 15 Nov: History of cinema; Hollywood style.

F 17 Nov: Discussion

**Week 13: More on movies**

reading: McCloud, Chapters 8-9, pp. 185-215;

M 20 Nov: Hitchcock

W 22 & F 24 Nov: THANKSGIVING BREAK

**Week 14: Divertimenti**

no readings

M 27 Nov & W 29 Nov & F 1 Dec: Project presentations.

*Final Project Due last day of reading period, W, 7 December*

Course Website: <http://blackboard.cornell.edu>

Final exam: Thur, 14 Dec @ 9 AM (location: 254 Uris)

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. The *Code of Academic Integrity and Acknowledging the Word of Others* is found in the *Policy Notebook for the Cornell Community* and is on the web at <http://www.cornell.edu/UniversityFaculty/docs/main.html>