

SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY, POLITICS AND SOCIOLOGY

ADVANCED RESEARCH SEMINAR IN POLITICS I

2011/2012

Module number:	POL 3093
Module Leader:	Dr. Kyle Grayson Email: k.a.grayson@ncl.ac.uk Feedback and Consultation Hours: Tuesdays 3-5pm (Rm 2.53)
Module Value:	20 Credits
Semester:	I
Stage:	II
Availability:	Subject to degree regulations, available to all Stage III undergraduates, including single and joint honours Politics, Combined Studies, and all other undergraduates in the Faculty of HASS.
Pre-requisites:	One of the following: POL 2078, POL 2079, or POL 2081.
Post-requisites:	None
Seminars:	Monday 12.00-15.00 (G.22 Politics Building)
Assessment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One Group Presentation• Due Date: December 12, 2011• Formative Assessment (feedback only) • Group Research Paper (8000 words)• Due Date: January 13, 2012• Value: 100% of final grade

Module Outline

This seminar is organised around applying the principle of problem-based learning (PBL) to topic areas at the cutting edge of research in politics. The research problem to be explored over the course of the seminar is ‘how to analyse the visual dimensions of international politics?’ The seminar will then intensively examine the conceptual and methodological elements of the problem scenario, identify and develop case-studies/data sets, and then analyse them as appropriate. Based on high levels of engagement, proactive learning, and inquisitiveness, participants will work in small groups to complete weekly tasks that will then culminate in the production of a group research project.

Aims and Objectives

This module has the following aims:

1. To provide a venue where a Politics staff research project—in preliminary stages—serves as the catalyst for problem-based learning (PBL) in a small seminar environment.
2. To explore the conceptual and methodological elements of a problem scenario based on a staff research project, identify and develop case-studies/data sets, and then analyse them as appropriate.
3. To improve the practical, research, and communication skills of students by applying them to a specific research-based problem.

In 2011-12, the substantive focus will be on visualities, affect, and aesthetics in international politics.

Intended Knowledge Outcomes

At the end of the module students will have:

1. Extended their understanding of the relationships between visualities, affect, and international politics;
2. Deepened their conceptual, methodological, and empirical knowledge in the subject area;
3. Developed the ability to make informed statements regarding visualities, affect, and politics more broadly.

Intended Skills Outcomes

At the end of the module students will be able to:

1. Provide informed solutions to a specific research problem through independent study and group work;
2. Evaluate empirical data, policies, concepts, arguments, and theories related to the specific problem under investigation;
3. Develop and articulate these evaluations through research, oral presentations, group discussion, and written communication;
4. Provide future employers of evidence/examples of having engaged in the practical application of conceptual knowledge for the purposes of solving a complex problem.

Core Skills

Graduate Skills Framework - P/A (Present, Assessed) (relevant to Employability):			
Cognitive / Intellectual Skills:			
Critical Thinking:	P/A	Data Synthesis:	P/A
Active Learning:	P	Numeracy:	P
Literacy:	P/A		
<i>Information Literacy:</i>			
Source Materials:	P/A	Synthesise and Present Materials:	P/A
Use of Computer Application:	P		
Self Management:			
Self-awareness and Reflection:	P		
<i>Planning & Organisation:</i>			
Goal Setting & Action Planning:	P	Decision Making:	P
<i>Personal Enterprise:</i>			
Innovation and Creativity:	P/A	Initiative:	P
Independence:	P	Adaptability:	P
Problem Solving	P/A		
Budgeting:			
Interaction:			
<i>Communication:</i>			
Oral:	P	Foreign Languages:	
Interpersonal	P	Written/Other	P/A
<i>Team Working:</i>			
Collaboration:	P/A	Relationship Building:	P
Leadership:	P	Negotiation:	P
Peer Assessment/Review:	P/A		
Application:			
Occupational Awareness:			
<i>Commercial Acumen:</i>			
Market Awareness:	P	Governance Awareness:	P
Financial Awareness:		Business Planning:	
Ethical Awareness:	P	Social, Cultural & Global Awareness:	P
Legal Awareness:	P		

What Can You Expect From Your Module Leader?

You can expect that I will cultivate a fertile learning environment and be responsive to any legitimate questions or concerns. You can also expect that I will grade and return assignments promptly (within 4 weeks of the deadline date). If you are having problems with any academic aspect of the module, please let me know so that we can work together to resolve them.. You are most welcome to visit me during office hours, other times via mutually convenient appointment, or to contact me through email.

Please allow 24 hours for a response and note that email correspondence will not be addressed on weekends or during public holidays.

What Does Your Module Leader Expect from You?

I expect that you will attend every single seminar and actively participate--save for cases of mitigating circumstances like illness. I also expect that you will undertake all of the work that is asked of you on a weekly basis. I also expect that you will treat your group members with dignity and respect by fulfilling with precision and care all of the tasks for which you are responsible to the best of your ability.

Teaching Arrangements

Based on the pedagogy of PBL, we will be working together over the course of the module to find potential solutions to the research problem of ‘how to analyse the visual dimensions of international politics?’ The goal is to get students to apply knowledge and skills concretely through *thinking* and *doing*. Therefore, it is expected that students will be given and complete small weekly assignments for the seminar that allow them to apply knowledge and skills introduced in the reading. With its ability to combine theoretical understanding and applied knowledge, PBL has been used in the natural sciences, engineering, and medicine as a means of promoting the development of conceptual and practical skills in students.

PBL is an extremely fluid and dynamic organising structure for a module. Thus, while particular elements of the module are outlined below, they may be subject to change depending on how the module develops as there is no pre-determined optimal solution to the research question that is being pursued. Any changes in content or structure will be a result of student input into the direction of the module. These changes will be explicitly conveyed to students in seminar and confirmed in a follow-up email so that everyone is clear on them.

As a pilot project funded by Newcastle University’s Teaching and Learning Innovation Committee, regular feedback from students on the module will be elicited to evaluate various aspects of the module. Such requests will take place during the seminar and student anonymity will be maintained.

Proposed Seminar Topics

October 3: Introduction

October 10: Ways of Seeing

October 17: The Production of the Visual

October 24: Visual Methodologies I (Content Analysis and Discourse Analysis)

October 31: Visual Methodologies II (Semiotics and Iconography)

November 7: Aesthetics, Affect, and the Political Audience

November 14: Case Study I in International Politics: Visual Regimes of Truth

November 21: No seminar

November 28: Case Study II in International Politics: Visuality, War, and Violence

December 5: Case Study III in International Politics: Visuality, ‘Failed States’, and the Colonial Gaze

December 12: Class Presentations and Concluding Seminar

Readings

Required readings for this module are to be found in widely available books as well as articles posted on the Blackboard website or available in the library collection. The reading outlined below for each week can only be indicative. Specific readings, topics, and sources may change as our research develops. I am particularly keen for students to proactively suggest literature or artefacts that may be useful for our research question.

Required Texts

- Berger, John. 1972. *Ways of Seeing*. (London: Penguin).
- Rose, Gillian (2007) *Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to the Interpretation of Visual Materials*, 2nd edn, (London: Sage).

Recommended Texts

- van Leeuwen, Theo and Carey Jewitt (eds.) (2001) *Handbook of Visual Analysis* (London: Sage)
- Struken, Marita and Lisa Cartwright (2009) *Practices of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)
- Mirzoeff, Nick (2002) *The Visual Culture Reader* (London: Routledge)
- Banks, Marcus (2001) *Visual Methods in Social Research* (London: Sage)
- Clarke, Graham (1997) *The Photograph* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)

October 3: Introduction

No required reading.

October 10: Ways of Seeing

Required Reading

- Berger, John (1972) *Ways of Seeing*. (London: Penguin).
- Rose, Gillian (2007) 'Researching Visual Materials: Towards a Critical Visual Methodology' *Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to the Interpretation of Visual Materials*, 2nd edn, (London: Sage): pp. 1-27.
- Jay, Martin (1988) 'Scopic Regimes of Modernity' in Hal Foster (ed.) *Vision and Visuality* (New York: New Press): pp. 3-23.
- Mitchell, W.T.J (2002) 'Showing Seeing: A Critique of Visual Culture' *Journal of Visual Culture* 1(2): 165-181.
- Bryson, Norman (1988) 'The Gaze in the Expanded Field' in in Hal Foster (ed.) *Vision and Visuality* (New York: New Press): pp. 87-113.

- Harraway, Donna (1989) 'Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective' *Feminist Studies* 14(3): 575-599.
- Bloom, Lisa (1999) 'Introducing With Other Eyes: Looking at Race and Gender in Visual Culture' in *With Other Eyes: Looking at Race and Gender in Visual Culture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press), pp. 1-18.
- Baudrillard, Jean (1983) *Simulations* (New York: Semiotexte), pp. 1-5.
- Foucault, Michel (1995) 'Panopticism' in *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (New York: Vintage Books)
- Mulvey, Laura (1975) 'Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema' *Screen*.

October 17: The Production of the Visual

Required Reading

- Lutz, Catherine A. and Jane L. Collins (1993) ' Inside the Great Machinery of Desire' and 'The Photograph as an Intersection of Gazes' in *Reading National Geographic* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press): pp. 47-85 and 187-216 (the entire book is well worth a read)
- Benjamin, Walter (1936) 'The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction' <http://dxarts.washington.edu/coupe/wk1/benjamin.pdf>
- Campbell, David (2008) 'The Visual Economy of HIV/AIDS: A Report for the AIDS, Security, and Conflict Initiative' <http://asci.researchhub.ssrc.org/rdb/asci-hub>
- Sontag, Susan (1979) 'The Image World' in *On Photography* (New York: Penguin Books), pp. 153-180.
- Frosh, P. (2003) 'Inside the Image Factory: Stock Photography and Cultural Production' *Media Culture and Society* 23(5): 625-646.

October 24: Visual Methodologies I (Content Analysis and Discourse Analysis)

Required Reading

- Bell, Philip (2001) 'Content Analysis of Visual Images' in Theo van Leeuwen and Carey Jewitt (eds.) *Handbook of Visual Analysis* (London: Sage): pp. 10-34.
- Rose, Gillian (2007) 'Discourse Analysis: Text, Intertextuality, and Context' *Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to the Interpretation of Visual Materials*, 2nd edn, (London: Sage): 141-171.
- Rose, Gillian (2007) 'Discourse Analysis: Institutions and Ways of Seeing' *Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to the Interpretation of Visual Materials*, 2nd edn, (London: Sage): 172-195.

- Lister, Martin and Liz Wells (2001) 'Seeing Beyond Belief: Cultural Studies as an Approach to Analysing the Visual' in Theo van Leeuwen and Carey Jewitt (eds.) *Handbook of Visual Analysis* (London: Sage): pp. 61-90;
- Parry, Kate (2010) 'A Visual Framing Analysis of British Press Photography during the 2006 Israel-Lebanon Conflict' *Media, War, and Conflict* 3(1): 67-85.

October 31: Visual Methodologies II (Semiotics and Iconography)

Required Reading

- Barthes, Roland (1977) 'The Photographic Message' and 'Rhetoric of the Image' in *Image, Music, Text* (London: Fontana Press), pp. 15-51.
- Cassidy, Brendan (1995) 'Iconography in Theory and Practice' *Visual Resources* 11(3-4): 323-348.
- Liu, Yu and Kay L. O'Halloran (2009) 'Intersemiotic Texture: Analyzing Cohesive Devices Between Language and Images' *Social Semiotics* 19(4): 367-388.
- Chandler, Daniel (2005) *Semiotics for Beginners*
<http://www.producaomultimedia.com.br/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Semiotics-for-Beginners-Daniel-Chandler.pdf>
- Summers, David (1981) 'Conventions in the History of Art' *New Literary History* 13(1): 103-125.
- Wright, Terence. "Moving Images: The Media Representation of Refugees." *Visual Studies* 17, no. 1 (2002): 53-66.

November 7: Aesthetics, Affect, and the Political Audience

Required Reading

- Bleiker, Roland (2001) "The Aesthetic Turn in International Political Theory," *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 30, no. 3: 509-533.
- Connolly, William (2005) 'The Evangelical Capitalist Resonance Machine', *Political Theory*, 33:6, 869-86.
- Hansen, Lene (2011) 'Theorizing the Image for Security Studies: Visual Securitization and the Muhammed Cartoon Crisis', *European Journal of International Relations*, 17:1, 51-74.
- Bleiker, Roland & Hutchinson, Elizabeth (2008) 'Fear no more: emotions and world politics', *Review of International Studies*, 34: Special Issue: Cultures and Politics of Global Communication, 115-35.
- Williams, Michael C. (2003) 'Words, Images, Enemies: Securitization and International Politics' *International Studies Quarterly* 47:4, 511-531.
- Thrift, Nigel (2008) 'Turbulent Passions: Towards an Understanding of the Affective Spaces of Political Performance' in *Non-Representational Theory: Space, Politics, Affect* (London: Routledge), pp. 220-254.

- Johnson, James (2011) "'The Arithmetic of Compassion': Rethinking the Politics of Photography' *British Journal of Political Science* 41(2): 621-643.

November 14: Case Study I in International Politics: Visual Regimes of Truth

Required Reading

- Feldman, Allen (1997). 'Violence and Vision: The Prosthetics and Aesthetics of Terror' *Public Culture* 10(1): 24-60
- Bartram, Rob (2004) 'Visuality, Dromology, and Time Compression: Paul Virilio's New Occularcentrism' *Time and Society* 13(2-3): 285-300.
- Apter, Andrew (2002) 'On Imperial Spectacle: The Dialectics of Seeing in Colonial Nigeria' *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 44: 564-596.
- Amoore, Louise (2007) 'Vigilant Visualities: The Watchful Politics of the "War on Terror"' *Security Dialogue* 38(2): 215-232.
- Mirzoeff, Nicholas (2009) 'War is Culture: Counter-Insurgency, Visuality, and the Patraeus Doctrine' *PMLA* 124(5): 1737-1746.
- Adey, Peter (2010) 'Vertical Security in the Megacity: Legibility, Mobility, and Aerial Politics' *Theory, Culture, & Society* 27(6): 51-67.

November 21: NO SEMINAR MEETING

November 28: Case Study II in International Politics: Visuality, War, and Violence

Required Reading

- Feldman, Allen (2005) 'On the Actuarial Gaze' *Cultural Studies*, 19(2): 203-226.
- Gregory, Derek (2010) 'Seeing Red: Baghdad and the Event-ful City' *Political Geography* 29(5): 266-279.
- Mirzoeff, Nick (2005) *Watching Babylon: The War in Iraq and Global Visual Culture* (London: Routledge).
- Groebner, Valentin (2004) *Defaced: The Visual Culture of Violence in the Late Middle-Ages* (Boston: MIT Press).
- Zelizer, Barbie (2005) 'Death in Wartime: Photographs and the "Other War" in Afghanistan' *Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics* 10(3): 26-55.
- Silcock, William B. et al (2008) "'Secret Casualties" Images of Injury and Death in the Iraq War Across Media Platforms' *Journal of Mass Media Ethics* 23(1): 36-50.

December 5: Case Study III in International Politics: Visuality, ‘Failed States’, and the Colonial Gaze

Required Reading

- Call, Charles (2011) ‘Beyond the Failed State: Toward Conceptual Alternatives’ *European Journal of International Relations*, 17(2): 303-326.
- Hagman, Tobias and Hoehne, Markus V (2009) ‘Failures of the State Failures Debate: Evidence from the Somali Territories’ *Journal of International Development* 21(1): 42-57.
- Campbell, David (2007) ‘Geopolitics and Visuality: Sighting the Darfur Conflict’ *Political Geography* 26: 357-382.
- Hecker, Tim (2010) ‘The Slum Pastoral: Helicopter Visuality and Koolhaas’ Lagos’ *Space and Culture* 13(3): 256-269.
- Dickinson, Elizabeth (2010 and 2011) ‘Postcards from Hell: Images from the World’s Most Failed States’ *Foreign Policy*
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/21/postcards_from_hell?page=full
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/06/20/postcards_from_hell_2011?page=full

December 12:

Class Presentations and Module Roundup.

Additional Reading

This additional reading list is only indicative and materials consulted can go well beyond what is outlined here.

Adorno, Theodor et al (2007) *Aesthetics and Politics* London: Verso Books.

Althusser, Louis. (1971) *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*. London: Monthly Review Press.

Ang, I (1996) *Living Room Wars: Rethinking media audiences for a postmodern world* (London: Routledge).

Barthes, Roland (1967) *Elements of Semiology*. Translated by A. Lavers. New York: Hill and Wang.

———. (1972) *Mythologies*. Translated by A. Lavers. New York: Hill and Wang.

———. (1977) *Image Music, Text*. Translated by S. Heath. New York: Hill and Wang.

———. (1981) *Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography*. Translated by R. Howard. New York: Hill and Wang.

———. (1990) *The Fashion System*. Translated by M. W. a. R. Howard. Berkeley: University of California Press.

- Beaulieu, J & Roberts, M (eds) (2002) *Orientalism's Interlocutors: Painting, Architecture, Photography* Duke University Press, Durham, NC.
- Bleiker, R (2009) *Aesthetics and World Politics, Rethinking Peace and Conflict Studies* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan).
- Brocklehurst, H (1999) 'Painting International Relations', *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 1:2, 314-23.
- Campbell, D (2003) 'Cultural Governance and Pictorial Resistance: Reflections on the Imaging of War', *Review of International Studies*, 29:(special issue): 57-73.
- Campbell, D (2008) 'Beyond Image and Reality: Critique and Resistance in the Age of Spectacle', *Public Culture*, 20(3): 539-50.
- Bronfen, E (2006) 'Reality Check: Image Affects and Cultural Memory', *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, 17(1): 20-46.
- Debord, Guy. (2008) *The Society of the Spectacle*. (Brighton)
- Elkins, James. (1997). *The Object Stares Back: On the Nature of Seeing*. (New York: Harcourt Books).
- Foucault, Michel. (2009) *Manet and the Object of Painting*. London: Tate Publishing.
- Gross, Larry, John Stuart Katz, and Jay Ruby, ed. (2003) *Image Ethics in the Digital Age*. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press).
- Hammond, P (2007) *Media, War & Postmodernity*, (London: Routledge).
- Hariman, Robert and John Louis Lucaites. (2007) *No Caption Needed: Iconic Photographs, Public Culture, and Liberal Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Hughes, R (2007) 'Through the Looking Blast: Geopolitics and Visual Culture', *Geography Compass*, 1(5): 976-94.
- Jameson, F (1992) *The geopolitical aesthetic: cinema and space in the world system* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press).
- Kaplan, EA (2005) *Trauma culture : the politics of terror and loss in media and literature* (Rutgers University Press).
- Kearns, MB (2000) 'Seeing is Believing is Knowing: Towards a Critique of Pure Vision', *Australian Geographical Studies*, 38(3): 332-40.
- MacDonald, F, Hughes, R & Dodds, K (eds) (2009) *Geopolitics and Visual Culture* (I.B. Tauris, London).
- Lacan, Jacques (2006) *Écrits: The First Complete Edition in English*, transl. by Bruce Fink (New York: W.W. Norton & Co.)
- Mitchell, W.J.T. (1987) *Iconography: Image, Text, Ideology*. (Chicago: University of Chicago).
- Mirzoeff, Nicholas. (1999) *An Introduction to Visual Culture*. (New York: Routledge).

———, ed. (2002). *The Visual Culture Reader*. (New York: Routledge).

Nightengale, Virginia. (1996). *Studying Audiences: The Shock of the Real*. (New York: Routledge).

O'Brien, TJ (1998) *Eugène Delacroix and the Pictorial Invention of Orientalism*, (Michigan: UMI).

Ranciere, Jacques. (2004). *The Politics of Aesthetics*. (London: Continuum).

———. (2010). *Dissensus: On Politics and Aesthetics*. Translated by S. Corcoran. (London: Continuum).

Sebeck, Thomas A. (1995). *Signs: An Introduction to Semiotics*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press).

Shapiro, MJ (2009) *Cinematic Geopolitics*, (London: Routledge).

Online Resources

The study of visual politics benefit from a range of online outlets dedicated to the analysis of the visual. The following list represents some of the more interesting work being undertaken:

David Campbell: Photography, Multimedia, Politics: www.david-campbell.org

Sociological Images: <http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/>

Visual Culture Blog: <http://visualcultureblog.com/>

No Caption Needed: <http://www.nocaptionneeded.com/>

Information Aesthetics: <http://infosthetics.com/>

Guernica: A Magazine of Art and Politics: <http://www.guernicamag.com/>

Prison Photography: <http://prisonphotography.wordpress.com/>

BagNewsNotes: <http://www.bagnewsnotes.com/>

(Notes On) Politics, Theory, Photography: <http://politicstheoryphotography.blogspot.com/>

News in Pictures: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/correspondents/philcoomes/>

Iconic Photos: <http://iconicphotos.wordpress.com/>

Information is Beautiful: <http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/>

NY Times Photojournalism Twitter feed: <http://twitter.com/#!/list/nytimes/photojournalism>