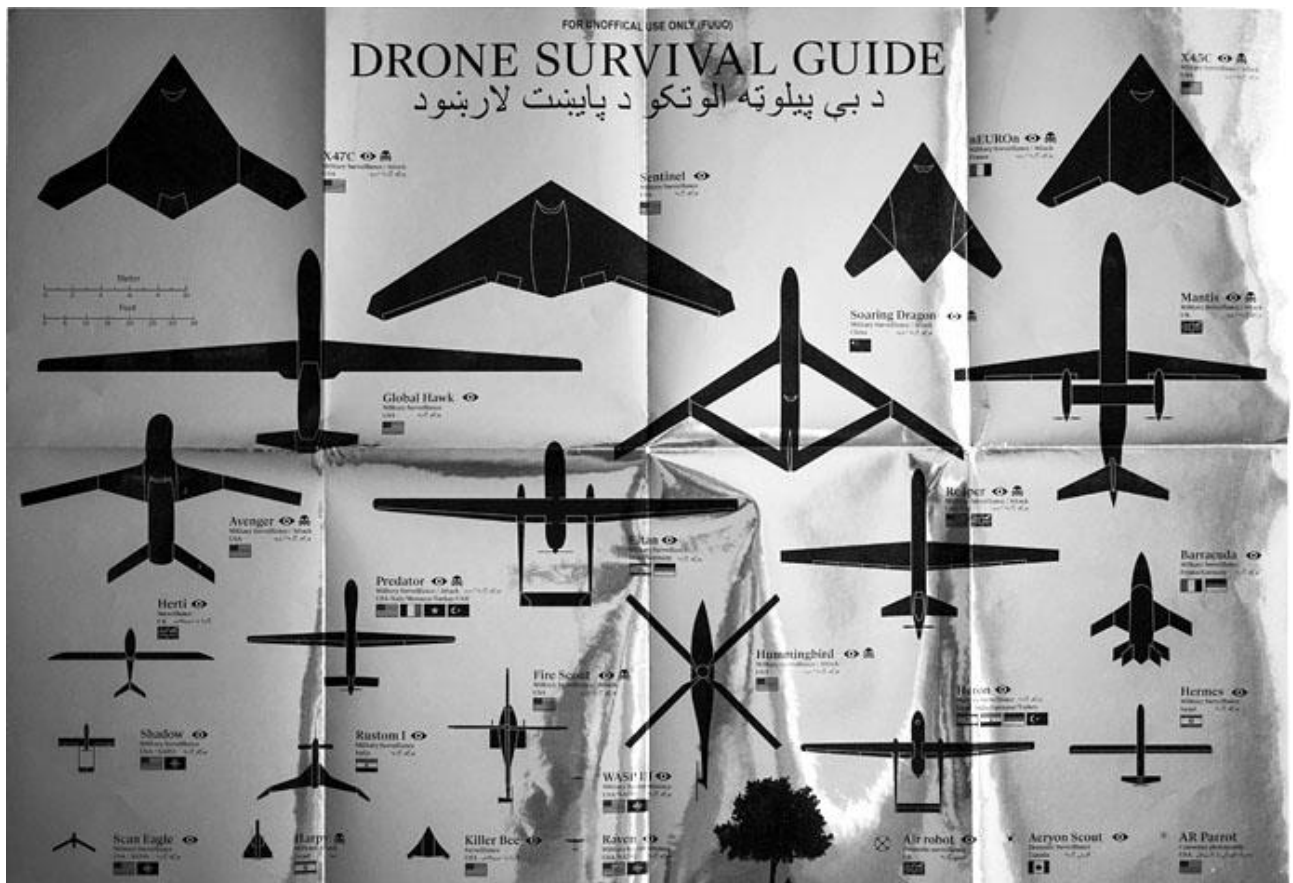


MDIA 221 Special Topic: Media, War and Crisis

Trimester 2 2015

13 July to 15 November 2015

20 Points



Source: <http://www.dronesurvivalguide.org/>

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015
Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015
Last assessment item due: 27 October 2015
Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Thursday 9.00am – 10.50am Hunter HULT323

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the MDIA 221 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorial Instructions” and follow the instructions carefully. Remember to record your tutorial time, day and room for future reference.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Kim Wheatley
Email: kim.wheatley@vuw.ac.nz
Phone: 04 463 7445
Room: 102, 81 Fairlie Terrace
Office Hours: Thursdays 3.10-4.00pm

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Course related information will be communicated via the MDIA 221 ST Blackboard site. Occasional emails will be sent through Blackboard to students’ VUW email address. Therefore, if you do not use your VUW email address, it is important you set up a forward from the VUW email system to an email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

Representations of war have become increasingly ubiquitous. This course examines the mediation of a number of recent crises, both local and global, that deploy the language of warfare. Drawing on these case studies we develop a critical assessment of everyday media and its relationship to power, war and crisis.

COURSE CONTENT

This course examine the complex relationships between media, war and crisis. Rather than treating war as a conflict between two nation states, this course understands war as a condition that shapes many of our everyday experiences. This ‘minimal’ definition of warfare will be used to analyse a variety of crises, whose scope is both global and local. Rather than viewing each crisis as an exceptional event that “just happened,” it examines the interconnectedness and globalised nature of crises as the products of a variety of social, cultural, military, economic and political processes.

It begins by exploring the operation of power as a mediated and affective set of relations that shape our understandings of war. The course then proceeds to work through several different theoretical conceptions of ‘media-war.’ These will provide a critical and methodological basis for students to draw upon in the final section of the course, which will involve the analysis of a series of contemporary crises.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) Critically discuss the ways in which media shape our understanding of war and crisis
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of the operation of power in a variety of contexts, both global and local
- 3) Engage with and apply theory and literature concerning media, war and crisis
- 4) Develop analytical skills in terms of reading, writing, and discussion.

TEACHING FORMAT

Students enrolled in this course are required to attend one weekly two-hour lecture and one weekly 50 minute tutorial (tutorials starting in Week 2). Lectures and tutorials are designed as interactive spaces of dialogue. Students should come to class having read that week's assigned readings, and prepared to engage in class discussion.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20-point course is 200 hours over the trimester or 13 hours per teaching week.

Teaching Week:

1 x 2 hour lecture 2.0

1 x 1 hour tutorial 1.0

2 x 2 hours reading 4.0

1 x 6.5 hours revision/assessment 6.5

Total 13.5

Other periods:

Research, study, assessment work 39.0

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Critical Analysis: 1,500 word reading analysis	25%	2, 3, 4	5.00pm Wednesday, 5 August
2 Essay: 2,000 word essay	35%	1, 3, 4	5.00pm Monday, 7 September
3 Take Home Test: 2 x 1,000 word essay	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	5.00pm Tuesday, 27 October

Assignment One: Critical Analysis (1,500 words; worth 25% of final grade; due 5.00pm Wednesday, 5 August)

This assignment covers material from Part 1 of the course. Students are required to write a critical analysis which compares and/or contrasts the readings from either Week 2 **or** Week 3. If you choose Week 2, you are to write a short essay that examines how the readings for that week engage with the notion of fear. If you choose Week 3, you are to write a short essay that examines how the readings for that week engage with the notion of power.

Note that this assignment is asking you to engage specifically with the readings, rather than to apply them to media examples. Your discussion needs to be focused, so do not feel that you need to cover every aspect of each reading. Instead, it is better to provide a brief summary of each reading, before going on to explain how they work to provide an understanding of that week's topic in relation to each other. Do not refer to secondary sources to support your discussion, instead, focus on demonstrating your own understanding of the readings.

Assignment Two: Essay (2,000 words; worth 35% of final grade; due 5.00pm Monday, 7 September)

This assignment requires students to write an essay that engages with the notion of media-war, and is to be based around the analysis of a specific media example.

Detailed assignment instructions will be made available in Week 4.

Assignment Three: Take Home Test (2 x 1,000 word essay; worth 40% of final grade; due 5.00pm Tuesday, 27 October)

This take home test will involve two 1,000 word essays. Students will choose two essay topics from a selection to be provided in Week 11. These tests are to be submitted via Blackboard in the same manner as Assignments 1 and 2. The take home test is designed to evaluate students' mastery over all four course learning objectives, with particular focus on Part 3 of the course (Weeks 7-12).

Marking Scale:

A+ 90-100%, **A** 85-89%, **A-** 80-84%, **B+** 75-79%, **B** 70-74%, **B-** 65-69%, **C+** 60-64%, **C** 55-59%, **C-** 50-54%
(Grades of C- and above are passes, otherwise: **D** 40-49%, **E** 0-39%)

Referencing:

All assignments for MDIA 221 must include referencing and a Works Cited list formatted in MLA style (see SEFTMS Student Handbook for guidelines).

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section of Blackboard.

Electronic assignments are submitted as a *MS Word* file through Blackboard. How to name your file and step-by-step instructions can be found on Blackboard in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section.

Your marked assignment will be found on Blackboard in the same section.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 13 November 2015.**

Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

Readings will be made available electronically via Blackboard.

RECOMMENDED READING

Any additional recommended reading will be made available electronically via Blackboard.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

As a result of feedback from previous students MDIA 221 no longer contains film screenings. A few minor alterations have also been made to the weekly topics. Students were happy with the workload in MDIA 221, so no changes have been made to the assessment, or overall structure of the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
MEDIA STUDIES PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE MDIA 221

- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 16 July **Introduction: Media-War**

Required Reading: Selected excerpts from Virilio, P. *War and Cinema: The Logistics of Perception*. Trans. Patrick Camiller. London: Verso, 1989. Print.

Programme: No tutorial. Sign up for a tutorial this week via S-Cubed.

Part 1: Affect and Power

Week 2 23 July **Affect: The Production of Fear**

Required Reading: Selected excerpts from: Ahmed, S. *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2004. Print.

Selected excerpts from: Davis, M. *Ecology of Fear: Los Angeles and the Imagination of Disaster*. New York: Vintage Books, 1998. Print.

Programme: Tutorials begin this week.

Week 3 30 July **Power: Colonialism and Orientalism**

Required Reading: Selected excerpts from: Hall, S. "The West and the Rest." *Formations of Modernity*. Eds. Bram Gieben and Stuart Hall. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992. 185-225. Print.

Selected excerpts from: Said, E. *Orientalism*. London: Penguin, 2003. Print.

Part 2: Media-War

Week 4 6 Aug **Virtual Warfare**

Required Reading: Ansorge, JT. "Orientalism in the Machine." *Orientalism and War*. Eds. Tarak Barkawi and Ketih Stanski. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2013. Web.

Bridle, J. "Drones and Dread." *Dread: The Dizziness of Freedom*. Ed. Juha van 't Zelfde. Amsterdam: Antennae, 2014. 79-87. Print.

Assignment #1 (Critical Analysis): Due 5.00pm Wednesday 5 August

Week 5 13 Aug **Sonic Warfare**

Required Reading: Selected excerpts from: Goodman, S. *Sonic Warfare: Sound, Affect, and the Ecology of Fear*. London: MIT Press, 2010. Print.

Week 6 20 Aug **Mnemonic Warfare**

Required Reading: Trimarco, J. and Depret, MH. "Wounded Nation, Broken Time." *The Selling of 9/11: How a National Tragedy Became a Commodity*. Ed. Dana Heller. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. 27-53. Print.

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 24 August to Sunday 6 September 2015

Part 3: Crisis

Week 7 10 Sept

Biopolitics

Required Reading: Selected excerpts from: Foucault, M. *Society Must Be Defended: Lectures at the Collège De France, 1975-76*. Trans. David Macey. New York: Picador, 2003. Print.

Nguyen, MT. "The Biopower of Beauty: Humanitarian Imperialisms and Global Feminisms in an Age of Terror." *Signs* 36.2 (2011): 359-383. Web.

Assignment #2 (Essay): Due 5.00pm Monday 7 September.

Week 8 17 Sept

Necropolitics

Required Reading:

Mbembe, A. "Necropolitics." Trans. Libby Meintjes. *Public Culture* 15.1 (2003): 11-40. Print.

Week 9 24 Sept

The State of Exception

Required Reading: Devadas, V. "Governing Indigenous Sovereignty: Biopolitics and the 'Terror raids' in New Zealand." *The Fourth Eye: Māori Media in Aotearoa New Zealand*. Eds. Brendan Hokowhitu and Vijay Devadas. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013. 3-24. Print.

Week 10 1 Oct

Bare Life

Required Reading: Agamben, G. "Beyond Human Rights." *Means Without End*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000. 14-25. Print.

Elder, C. "Invaders, Illegals and Aliens: Imagining Exclusion in a 'White Australia.'" *Law Text Culture* 7.1 (2003): 221-250. Web.

Week 11 8 Oct

Norms and Frames

Required Reading: Butler, J. "Torture and the Ethics of Photography." *Observant States: Geopolitics and Visual Culture*. Eds. Fraser Macdonald, Rachel Hughes and Klaus Dodds. London: I. B. Tauris: 2010. 41-64. Print.

Week 12 15 Oct

Apocalypse

Required Reading: Sontag, S. "The Imagination of Disaster." *Against Interpretation and Other Essays*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1966. 209-225.

Selected excerpts from: Calder-Williams, E. *Combined and Uneven Apocalypse*. Winchester: Zero, 2011. Print.

Assignment #3 (Take Home Test): Due 5.00pm Tuesday 27 October