

Lingnan University
Department of Visual Studies
Visual Studies: An analytic introduction

This course will introduce students to the debates about Visual Studies as an academic disciplinary. The study of the visual will be differentiated from the study of visual culture and the central areas of importance in the study of the visual will be mapped out. The students will also be introduced to such contested issues as have their roots in the naturalist/constructivist debate: what is the status of the distinction between art and non-art; to what extent is seeing 'natural' and to what extent can it be compared to 'reading'; what is the relative role of, on the one hand, culture and education, and, on the other, nature in our various reactions to the visual environment etc.

20% attendance
40% 2 presentations
30% term paper

Course structure:

1. Visual Studies as a new academic discipline
2. Visual Studies and studies of 'visual culture'.
3. The concept of 'the visual'
4. Iconology
5. Formalism
6. Art History
7. Ideology
8. Semiotics
9. Hermeneutics
10. Avant-garde and Kitsch: high art and low art
11. Mass culture: art and commodity
12. Gaze
13. Art and Public Space

Required Readings :

Howells, Richard, *Visual Culture* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2003).

Elkins, James, *Visual Studies: A Skeptical Introduction*, London: Routledge, 2003.

Supplementary Readings:

1. Acton, Mary, *Learning to Look at Pictures*, London: Routledge, 1999.
2. Andrews, Malcolm, *The Search for the Picturesque Landscape, Aesthetics and Tourism in Britain, 1760-1800*, New ed., Aldershot: Ashgate, Scholar Press, 1990.
3. Barrett, Terry. *Interpreting Art* (New York: McGraw Hill, 2003).
4. Budd, Malcolm, 'How Pictures Look', in David Knowles and John Skorupski, eds., *Virtue and Taste*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1993, pp. 154-75. Reprinted in Lamarque, Peter and Olsen, Stein Haugom, eds., *Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art: The Analytic Tradition: An Anthology*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004, 383-395.
5. Bryson, Norman; Holly, Michael Ann and Moxley, Keith eds., *Visual Theory. Painting and Interpretation*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1991.
6. Danto, Arthur C., 'Animals as Art Historians: Reflections on the Innocent Eye', in Danto, Arthur C., *Beyond the Brillo Box. The Visual Arts in Post-Historical Perspective*, New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1992, pp.15-31.
7. Dikovitskaya, Margarita, *Visual Culture: The Study of the Visual After the Cultural Turn*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2005.
8. Eco, Umberto, *Art and Beauty in the Middle Ages*, trans. Bredin, Hugh, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986.
9. Emerling, Jae. *Theory for art History* (New York: Routledge, 2005).
10. Gombrich, Ernst, *The Uses of Images. Studies in the Social Function of Art and Visual Imagery*, London: Phaidon Press, 1999.
11. Good, Deamey, *Aesthetics, Art and Art History*, Bristol: Thoemmes Press, 2003.
12. Moxey, Keith P.F. and Holly, Michael Ann, *Art History, Aesthetics, Visual Studies*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003.
13. Mead, Margaret, *Study of Visual Culture*, Oxford: Berghan Books, 2005.
14. Moxey, Keith, *Visual Studies. The Fundamentals*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.
15. Moxey, Keith P.F. & Holly, Michael Ann., *Art History, Aesthetics, Visual Studies* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003).
16. Strinati, Dominic. "Mass culture and mass society," in *An Introduction to Theories of Popular Culture* (London: Routledge, 2003), Introduction pp. 5-9.
17. Umberto Eco, *Art and Beauty in the Middle Ages*, trans. Hugh Bredin (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986).
18. Van Eck, Caroline and Winters, Edward, *Dealing with the Visual. Art History, Aesthetics and Visual Culture*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2004.
19. Wollheim, Richard, 'On Pictorial Representation', *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 56 (1998), pp. 217-26. Reprinted in Lamarque, Peter and Olsen, Stein Haugom, eds., *Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art: The Analytic Tradition: An Anthology*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004, pp. 396-405.

19. ———., 'The Historicity of the Eye. The Pigeon within Us All: A Reply to Three Critics', *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 59 (2001), pp. 39-44.
20. ———., 'The Historicity of the Eye. Seeing and Showing', *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 59 (2001), pp. 1-9.