

W&M in Washington

Fall 2010

New Media and Culture in the Nation's Capital

Taught by Dr. Ann Marie Stock

This semester's theme seeks to analyze the state of visual culture in an era defined by increasing connectedness and interdependence. We will examine how identities – whether community-based, national, regional or trans-national – are forged and negotiated through new media, art and film. In this moment of accelerated transformation, we will use Washington, DC as the lens through which we view the importance of worldwide visual culture in both promoting a sense of locatedness and permitting engagement with global processes.

Washington Program Internship

- *6 credit hours: INTR 499*

In an internship tailored to individual interests, each student will have the opportunity to act as a “cultural agent” in helping foster creativity and promote new media, art and film. A variety of cultural organizations will host W&M Washington Program participants -- who will engage in such activities as helping to manage video content for Discovery.com or National Geographic; organize one of DC's numerous film festivals; participate in the arts and culture programming of the Spanish Embassy; collaborate with a team of curators and designers to install an exhibit at the National Gallery of Art; draft policy documents at the National Endowment for the Arts, or contribute to online content at NPR.org.

On Location: Identities, Representation, and the Politics of Place

- *3 credit hours: MLL 360-01, LCST 351/FILM 351, AMST 350*

This course investigates the effects of globalization on worldwide cultural identities as viewed from the nation's capital. We will interrogate how identities are constructed through visual culture—specifically film, new media, photography and art. Among the questions we will pursue are: How does visual culture participate in forging identities? For whom (or in the interest of whom) does culture speak? Who defines the nation? How are identities contested? Combining theory, diverse expressions (feature films, documentaries, television, news broadcasting, photographs, museum displays, art installations), we will explore numerous paradigms as frameworks of understanding. In order to take full advantage of the Washington DC site, course “texts” and assignments will include film festivals and screenings, museum exhibitions, and cultural events.

Brokering Culture: Agency and the Visual Arts

- *3 credit hours: MLL 360-02, LCST 401, AMST 350*

This course investigates the practices and politics of brokering culture—that is, curating, organizing, promoting, and supporting the production and circulation of the arts, broadly defined. In this “seminar in the city,” we will meet these cultural agents (i.e., curators, editors, producers, policy makers) and examine the issues facing them as they foster the creation and dissemination of new media, and various art forms, including film. Of particular interest will be the strategies they have developed to address the changing policy landscape in response to new technologies, demographic shifts and global forces.