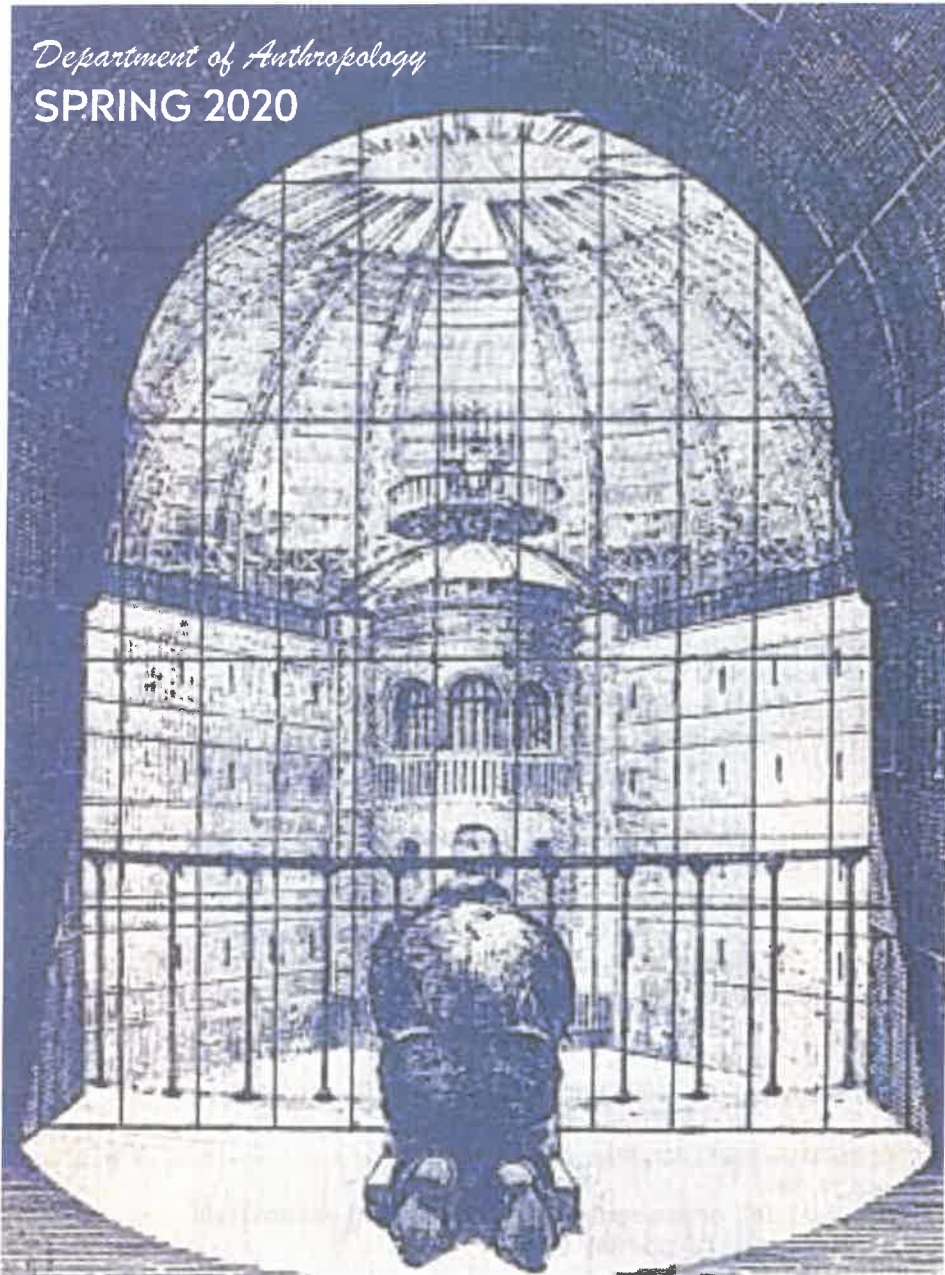


Department of Anthropology
SPRING 2020



ANTH 4701.036

SURVEYING THE SELF(IE)

This seminar takes an anthropological approach to exploring the way in which we navigate our social lives in a virtual world. The innovation of social media sites brought with them the freedom of unbounded sociality, where with a single click you can have thousands or even millions of "friends". Yet, it is worth considering whether this new virtual society is less an expanse of sociality and more a social prison in which we discipline ourselves to the constant self-examination over how to display and manage our online profiles. Applying Foucault's theories on the "Panopticon", as elaborated in Discipline and Punish (1975), we will embody a social media persona in order to explore how we manage our friendships, sexuality, politics, morality, and ultimately our SELVES in the virtual world.

M/W/F
10:00-10:50am
Lang 301

Assessments

10% ATTENDANCE
10% SOCIAL MEDIA PROJECT
20% APPLICATION PAPERS
30% MIDTERM EXAMINATION
30% FINAL EXAMINATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor Nelson

melissa.nelson@unt.edu

Office: 120, Sycamore Hall

Phone: 940-369-8449

Office Hours:

By Appointment



UNT

UNIVERSITY
OF NORTH TEXAS

THE DETAILS

READINGS

Foucault, Michel. 1995. Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison. Vintage Books: New York.
*Additional required readings will be digitally available on CANVAS.

ASSESSMENTS

ATTENDANCE [10%]

Everyone starts out with 100 points. Points are deducted for the following: -5 (absences). Arriving after 10:15am will count as an absence. No points will be deducted for excused absences. Excused absences must either be granted instructor permission prior to the class missed or be accompanied with documentation by the following class session or upon return (whichever is sooner).

**Students maintaining 100 points by the end of the semester will be awarded +2% on their final grade.

SOCIAL MEDIA PROJECT [10%]

A group, creative-arts project which shall serve as the culmination to the first semester's "virtual workshops". Everyone in the group will receive the same grade. It shall be submitted/presented to the class prior to Spring Break.

APPLICATION PAPERS [20%]

400-500 word essays that conceptualize Foucauldian thought onto social media applications. Seven application papers will be assigned at the end of each subsection beginning with "Microphysics of Power" and ending with "Prison". Each paper will be graded out of a 100 point scale.

MIDTERM EXAMINATION [30%]

700-1,000 word take-home essay that centers on the Foucauldian understanding of "Discipline" and how it can be applied to social media. It will illustrate an understanding for the micro-mechanisms of how the Panopticon works.

FINAL EXAMINATION [30%]

1000-1500 word take-home essay that centers on the Foucauldian understanding of "Punishment" and how it can be applied to social media. It will illustrate an understanding of how the concept of the Panopticon can be wielded as an instrument of power and control.

NB! Word count is non-negotiable. Failing to meet, or exceeding, the word count window will result in an automatic deduction of ½ a letter grade (-5 points).

NOTE

There is a strict policy of not accepting late work in this course. Late submissions are only accepted in extreme circumstances (hospitalization, car accident, etc.) and only when absences are excused and accompanied by documentation. However, extensions are readily considered. Extensions must be requested via email at least 24 hours prior to the submission deadline.

ADA POLICY

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323

PART I: DISCIPLINE

INTRODUCTION: THE COURSE & FOUCAULT					
1.13 M	<i>Black Mirror</i> Season 3, Episode 1 "Nosedive"	1.15 W	<i>Black Mirror</i> (cont'd) Gritting ChH: Lives & Works	1.17 F	Gritting ChH: Crime & Punishment
MICROPHYSICS OF POWER					
TALK	TEXT	POST			
1.20 M	No Class: MLK Jr. Holiday	1.22 W	Introduction to Microphysics of Power Discuss: Discipline & Punish 135-141	1.24 F	Select Social Media Groups
1.27 M	Concept Day: Thinking Through Microphysics	1.29 W	Theory Day: Thinking Through Foucault	1.31 F	Virtual Workshop
INSTRUMENTAL CODING OF THE BODY					
TALK	TEXT	POST			
2.3 M	Introduction to Instrumental Coding of the Body	2.5 W	Discuss: Discipline & Punish 149-169	2.7 F	Virtual Workshop
2.10 M	Concept Day: Thinking Through Instrumental Coding	2.12 W	Theory Day: Thinking Through Foucault	2.14 F	Virtual Workshop
CELLULAR POWER					
TALK	TEXT	POST			
2.17 M	No Class	2.19 W	Introduction to Cellular Power	2.21 F	Discuss: Discipline & Punish 141-149
2.24 M	Concept Day: Thinking Through Cellular Power	2.26 W	Theory Day: Thinking Through Foucault	2.28 F	Virtual Workshop
THE PANOPTICON: MECHANISMS					
3.2 M	Putting It All Together: Microphysics of Power	3.4 W	Putting It All Together: Cellular Power	3.6 F	Putting It All Together: Instrumental Coding of the Body
<p>SPRING BREAK 3.09-3.13</p>					
<p>MIDTERM EXAM DUE 3.18</p>					

ASSESSMENT DUE DATES

Application Papers

A1: Microphysics of Power [due 2.3.2020]

A2: Instrumental Coding of the Body [due 2.19.2020]

A3: Cellular Power [due 3.2.2020]

Social Media Projects

Due to be presented [3.2.2020],

[3.4.2020], [3.6.2020].

PART 2: PUNISHMENT

TALK		TEXT		POST	
INTRODUCTION TO PUNISHMENT					
3.16 M	No Class	3.18 W	Introduction to Punishment	3.20 F	Discuss: Discipline & Punish 170-177 Rayner: Life in a Virtual Panopticon
NORMALIZATION					
3.23 M	Introduction to Normalization	3.25 W	Discuss: Discipline & Punish 177-184	3.27 F	Take It To The Screens
INVENTION OF REALITY					
3.30 M	Introduction to Invention of Reality Discuss: "How to Become TripAdvisor's #1 Fake Restaurant" on Youtube	4.1 W	Discuss: Discipline & Punish 184-194 Wagner: Invention of Culture	4.3 F	Take It To The Screens
PERFORMANCE					
4.6 M	Introduction to Performance Discuss: "Social Animals" on Netflix	4.8 W	Discuss— Rayner: I Tweet Therefore I Become Rayner: Call of the Crowd Orenstein: I Tweet Therefore I Am	4.10 F	Take It To The Screens
PRISON					
4.13 M	Introduction to the Prison	4.15 W	Discuss: Discipline & Punish 195-228	4.17 F	Take It To The Screens
THE PANOPTICON: INSTRUMENT OF POWER AND CONTROL					
4.20 M	Putting It All Together: Mechanism	4.22 W	Putting It All Together: Instrument	4.24 F	Putting It All Together: Panopticon
REVIEW: REVISITING <i>Black Mirror</i>					
4.27 M	Revisit <i>Black Mirror</i> Season 3, Episode 1 "Nosedive"	4.29 W	Review for Final Exam Prompt	5.1 F	Reading Day: No Classes
FINAL EXAM DUE 5.2 @ 10AM					

ASSESSMENT DUE DATES

Application Papers

A4: Normalization [due 3.30.2020]

A5: Invention of Reality [due 4.6.2020]

A6: Performance [due 4.13.2020]

A7: Prison [due 4.20.2020]