

JOINT GRADUATE PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

BACKGROUND READING FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

Compiled by Fred Fletcher, founding Graduate Program Director (York)

Note to Students

Since its inception in 2000, the Program has accepted students with a wide range of academic backgrounds. In order to assist students from fields other than communication studies and cultural studies to prepare for the required courses in the program, we have prepared the following brief reading list. It leans towards secondary sources – textbooks and review articles – as a strategy for students to acquaint themselves with some of the most important theoretical perspectives, concepts and vocabulary, and controversies that will be dealt with in the courses offered by the program. The materials have been chosen for breadth rather than depth, providing an introduction to ideas that students will be able to explore more fully during their studies in the Joint Program.

Communication and Culture are broad terms and the program covers a very broad range of literature, including media studies, communication studies, cultural studies, technology theory and media making. The focus is on critical approaches to theory and practice.

We believe that most students would benefit from a selective reading of these materials. We recommend that you use these resources as a tool to help fill in gaps in your background, focusing on materials that they have not previously encountered. Some of the readings will be assigned in courses, but most will not. Read for the ideas. Often, the Introduction will provide a sufficient overview of the key ideas. Take notes if you wish, but the idea is simply to get an overview of the various areas of study and approaches. You are also advised to consult the various reference works listed below for help with vocabulary and critical concepts.

We hope the list is helpful. Please regard it as a resource rather than a requirement!

Graduate Program Directors, York and Ryerson

Overviews and General Texts

General

James Carey, *Communication as Culture: Essays on Media and Society* (1989).

Robert T. Craig. "Communication Theory as a Field," *Communication Theory*, 9.2(1999), 119-61.

James Curran and Myung-Jin Park, eds. *De-Westernizing Media Studies* (2002).

Lawrence Grossberg, et al. *MediaMaking* (Sage: 2nd ed., 2006).

Elihu Katz, et al., *Canonic Texts in Media Research* (Polity, 2003).

McQuail's *Mass Communication Theory* (Sage: 5th ed., 2005).

Armand and Michèle Mattelart, *Theories of Communication: A Short Introduction*, trans. Susan Gruenheck Taponier and James A. Cohen (London: Sage, 1998).

Roger Silverstone, *Why Study the Media?* (1999).

Kevin Williams, *Understanding Media Theory* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Canadian

Paul Attallah and Leslie Regan Shade, eds., *Mediascapes: New Patterns in Canadian Communication*, Toronto: Nelson, 2002 and 2006.

Robert E. Babe, *Canadian Communication Thought* (Toronto, 2000).

Augie Fleras, *Mass Media Communication in Canada* (2003).

R. Lorimer and M. Gasher, *Mass Communication in Canada* (5th ed., 2004).

Mary Vipond, *The Mass Media in Canada* (2000).

Media and Culture

John Berger, *Ways of Seeing* (Penguin: 1977).

Jody Berland, "Space at the Margins: Critical Theory and Colonial Space after Innis," in Charles Acland and William Buxton, eds., *Harold Innis in the New Century* (McGill-Queen's, 1999), 261-80.

Stuart Hall, ed., *Representation: cultural representations and signifying practices*. Sage, 1997.

Janine Marchessault, *Marshall McLuhan*. Sage, 2005.

Angela McRobbie, *Uses of Cultural Studies* (Sage, 2005).

Lana Rakow and Laura Wackwitz, *Feminist Communication Theory* (Sage, 2004)

John Thompson, *The Media and Modernity* (Stanford, 1995).

Media and Cultural Studies Keywords. Eds Meenakshi Gigi Durham and Douglas Kellner (Blackwell 2001)

Politics and Policy

Michael Dorland, ed., *The Cultural Industries in Canada* (Lorimer, 1996).

Peter Golding and Graham Murdock, "Culture, Communications and Political Economy," in James Curran and Michael Gurevitch, *Mass Media and Society* (Arnold: 3rd ed. 2000).

David Hogarth, "Communication Policy in a Global Age: Regulation, Public Communication and the Post-National Project," in Colin Mooers and John Shields, eds., *Restructuring and Resistance: Canadian Public Policy in an Age of Global Capitalism* (McGill-Queen's, 2000), 205-16.

Vincent Mosco. *The Political Economy of Communication* (Sage: 1996).

Paul Nesbitt-Larking, *Politics, Society and the Media: Canadian Perspectives*. Broadview, 2001.

Technology in Practice

Leo Braudy and Marshall Cohen, eds., *Film Theory and Criticism*. Oxford University Press, 6th ed., 2004.

Robert Burnett and David Marshall, *Web Theory: An Introduction* (Routledge, 2003).

Greg Elmer, ed., *Critical Perspectives on the Internet* (2002).

David Holmes, *Communication Theory: Media, Technology and Society* (Sage, 2005).

Vincent Mosco. *The Digital Sublime: Myth, Power and Cyberspace* (MIT Press, 2004).

Communication in History: Technology, Culture, Society. Eds. David Crowley and Paul Heyer. (Longman 1999)

Reference Works

The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory (it is possible to register for a trial subscription) http://www.press.jhu.edu/books/hopkins_guide_to_literary_theory/

Chris Barker, *The Sage Dictionary of Cultural Studies*. Sage, 2004.

Tony Bennett, et al., eds., *New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. Blackwell, 2005. Check it out at www.blackwellpublishing.com/newkeywords

Peter Brooker, *A Glossary of Cultural Theory*. Arnold 2nd ed., 2002.

David Macey, *The Penguin Dictionary of Critical Theory*. Penguin, 2001.

Michael Payne, et al., eds., *A Dictionary of Cultural and Critical Theory*. Oxford University Press, 1996.

James Watson and Anne Hill, *Dictionary of Media and Communication Studies* (Oxford University Press, London. 2000)