

## English Course Descriptions, PH.D. Spring, 2008

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| 5614: Visual Rhetoric<br>crn:16570                   | Professor George  | Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30 AM |
| 6344: Rhetoric in Digital Environments<br>crn: 16572 | Professor Collier | Monday & Wednesday 4:00 PM  |
| 6524: Theories of Written Communication<br>crn: TBA  | Professor Hausman | Monday & Wednesday 9:30 AM  |

### **English 5614 Visual Rhetoric (George)**

This seminar is intended to introduce students to the many dimensions of visual rhetoric including issues of graphic design, visual storytelling or reporting (graphic novels, docu-comics, graphic memoirs), visual argument, film, photography, painting, and other forms of visual rhetoric. In addition to some of the classic statements on visual rhetoric and visual theory (i.e., Roland Barthes' "Rhetoric of the Image" and "The Photographic Message"; John Berger, Gunther Kress and Theo van Leeuwen; Ellen Lupton on design, W.J.T. Mitchell's *Picture Theory*), we will also read graphic novels and documents (i.e. *Persepolis*, *The 9/11 Commission Report*, *a Visual Adaptation*), and key texts in graphic design. There will be opportunities for reading, examining, and composing visual texts.

### **RW 6344 Rhetoric in Digital Environments (Collier)**

Study of the uses of digital media in research, information development and sharing, and advocacy regarding public issues. Students are asked to consult the instructor's course web site — <http://www.faculty.english.vt.edu/Collier/digrhet/> — toward the beginning of the semester.

### **RW 6524: Theories of Written Communication (Hausman)**

This course will be an advanced introduction to Critical Theory and Cultural Studies, introducing students to the "heavy hitters" of theory in this field. Representative authors will probably include Roland Barthes, Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, Judith Butler, Frederic Jameson, Stuart Hall, Louis Althusser, Theodor Adorno, Donna Haraway, Sander Gilman, Ann duCille, and Michel de Certeau. We will survey a broad range of topics, projects, theories, and themes, focusing ultimately on how we ourselves approach and enact self-consciously theoretical research. Emphasis in the course will be on mastering the theoretical frameworks in order to develop students' interpretive methods, culminating in an original term paper. Midterm paper, final paper (including presentation), class presentation on reading assignment, and weekly discussion board entries.