

# **SOCI 2700A – Power & Everyday Life**

**<http://powerandeverydaylife.wordpress.com/>**

**Fall 2007 / Winter 2008  
Fridays 8:35 - 11:25 am  
Tory Building 340**

**Instructor: Anne Galloway  
Email: [anne.galloway@gmail.com](mailto:anne.galloway@gmail.com)  
Office: Loeb Building A739  
Office hours: Fridays 11:30 - 12:30 or by appointment**

---

## **PREREQUISITE**

SOCI 1000 and second-year standing, or permission of the instructor.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

To borrow a description from Ben Highmore, this course is dedicated to questioning everyday life and allowing everyday life to question our understandings of the world. The first term introduces students to a variety of critical and historical perspectives on power and everyday life, and how these theoretical and methodological approaches can help us actively understand relations of production and consumption in our daily lives. Delving into everything from how we experience space and time to how we understand bodies, identities, objects and interactions with others, the second term focusses on technoscience as a primary force shaping power relations and everyday life today.

Through weekly lectures, readings, discussions and workshop activities, students will learn to identify a range of material and symbolic culture in order to explore and evaluate everyday social interactions and relations of power. Students are required to attend class regularly, with the readings completed in advance and prepared to participate. Although there are no exams, students can expect to develop their reading, research, writing and presentation skills through challenging analytical and creative assignments. Students will also have the opportunity to use weblogs and other online resources to support course-related activities and objectives.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Ben Highmore (ed), [Everyday Life Reader](#), Routledge, 2002.

Mike Michael, [Technoscience and Everyday Life](#), Open University Press, 2006.

Both can be purchased at Haven Books (at the corner of Sunnyside and Seneca). Please check the course weblog or call 613-730-9888 to confirm availability & pricing.

All additional readings are on reserve in Carleton's library.

**ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION**

<p><b>Participation</b></p>	<p>Students are required to attend class regularly, with the readings completed in advance, and to actively participate in group discussions and workshop activities.</p> <p>Group sign-up takes place the second week of each term and attendance is recorded weekly.</p> <p>The in-class workshop on <u>Sept 28, 2007</u> is dedicated to research and writing skills. <u>Attendance is mandatory.</u></p>	<p>20%  (10% each term)</p>	<p>Due <b>weekly</b></p>
<p><b>Assignment #1</b></p>	<p><i>Mass Observation</i> Students are required to conduct six (6) hours of public observations and write two (2) short essays (2 pages each) on a choice of topics provided by the Instructor.</p>	<p>20%</p>	<p>Due <b>Oct 19, 2007</b></p>
<p><b>Assignment #2</b></p>	<p><i>Everyday Strategies &amp; Tactics</i> Students are required to conduct basic library research and write three (3) short essays (2 pages each) on a choice of topics provided by the Instructor.</p>	<p>15%</p>	<p>Due <b>Nov 23, 2007</b></p>
<p><b>Assignment #3</b></p>	<p><i>Everyday Technologies</i> Students are required to give a brief (5 minutes) presentation and prepare a one-page handout on a topic provided by the Instructor.</p>	<p>10%</p>	<p>Due <b>Jan 11, 2008</b></p>
<p><b>Assignment #4</b></p>	<p><i>Everyday Surveillance</i> Students are required to conduct basic library research and write three (3) short essays (2 pages each) on a choice of topics provided by the Instructor.</p>	<p>15%</p>	<p>Due <b>Feb 8, 2008</b></p>
<p><b>Assignment #5</b></p>	<p><i>Power &amp; Everyday Life</i> Students are required to write a short (8-10 pages) academic research paper on a choice of topics provided by the Instructor.</p>	<p>20%</p>	<p>Due <b>Mar 14, 2008</b></p>

## DEADLINES AND RETURN OF STUDENT'S WORK

All deadlines are firm and are indicated above, as well as included in the course schedule below.

Written work is to be submitted in class or placed in the drop box outside the Sociology & Anthropology main office by 4pm on the due date. Students must keep a hard-copy of each assignment and the Instructor will not be responsible for misplaced assignments.

Late submissions will be penalised 10% every day, including weekends, and no submissions will be accepted or graded after the last day of class.

The Instructor will endeavour to grade and return assignments within two weeks.

## DROP/WITHDRAWAL DATES

Last day to change courses or sections for fall/winter and fall term courses: **September, 21, 2007**.

Last day to withdraw from fall/winter, winter-term courses and any other courses that end this term: **March 14, 2008**.

## GRADES

In accordance with the Carleton University Calendar (p 39), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 56-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52

F = Below 50      WDN = Withdrawn from the course

ABS = Student absent from final exam

DEF = Deferred (See above)

FND = (Failed, no Deferred) = Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam.

Final grades are subject to the approval of the faculty Dean, who also has the authority to change grades.

Students wishing to improve the quality of their work should also visit the Student Academic Success Centre located at 302 Tory or online at <http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/> and the Writing Tutorial Service located at 215 Paterson Hall or online at <http://www.carleton.ca/wts/>

## INSTRUCTIONAL OFFENCES

Students should be aware of and respect the University's policies on Academic Integrity and Offences of Conduct, as outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar and available online at <http://www.carleton.ca/cu0708uc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html> and <http://www.carleton.ca/cu0708uc/regulations/acadregsuniv15.html> respectively.

Students may not submit a piece of work for academic credit more than once. Students should also be clear on what constitutes academic plagiarism and use ASA Style for all citations and bibliographies.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS & ACCOMMODATIONS**

If there is any student in this course who, because of disability, may have a need for special accommodations, please come and discuss this with the Instructor. As well students must immediately contact the Paul Menton Centre for Persons with Disabilities to obtain a Letter of Accommodation for any special arrangements. It is located at 500 UniCentre and online at <http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/>.

Accommodations for Religious Obligations are to be worked out on individual basis with the Instructor. Consult the Equity Services website (<http://www.carleton.ca/equity>) or an Equity Advisor (ext. 5622) for Policy and list of Holy Days. In the case of pregnancy, please contact Equity Services (ext. 5622) to obtain a Letter of Accommodation.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

<b>September 7, 2007</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Introduction & welcome to class!  <u>Readings</u>  Ben Highmore, "Questioning everyday life" (ELR pp. 1-34)

<b>September 14, 2007</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Situating everyday life
<b>Seminar</b>	<u>Readings &amp; discussion</u>  Betty Friedan, "The problem that has no name" (ELR pp. 58-62)  Erving Goffman, "Front and back regions of everyday life" (ELR pp. 50-57)  Raymond Williams, "Culture is ordinary" (ELR pp. 91-100)
<b>Workshop</b>	"What's in your bag?"

<b>September 21, 2007 (DISCUSSION/WORKSHOP GROUP SIGN-UP)</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	The poetics and politics of everyday life
<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>Ben Highmore, "Simmel: Fragments of everyday life" in <i>Everyday life and cultural theory</i> (RSV pp. 17-32)</p> <p>Karal Ann Marling, "Nixon in Moscow: the kitchen debate" (ELR pp. 101-107)</p> <p>Georges Perec, "Approaches to what?" (ELR pp. 176-178)</p> <p>Carolyn Steedman, "Landscape for a good woman" (ELR pp. 262-270)</p> <p>Leon Trotsky, "Habit and Custom" (ELR pp. 85-90)</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	Guerrilla Postering 101

<b>September 28, 2007</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Mass Observation: Recording everyday life
<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>Ben Highmore, "Mass-Observation: A Science of Everyday Life" in <i>Everyday life and cultural theory</i> (RSV pp. 75-112)</p> <p>Mass Observation, "Two letters and "They speak for themselves"" (ELR pp. 145-152)</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	Research & Writing Skills - <u>attendance is mandatory</u>

<b>October 5, 2007</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	The Situationist International & Lefebvre's critique of everyday life
<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>Guy Debord, "Perspectives for conscious alterations in everyday life" (ELR pp. 237-245) and "Separation perfected" (see weblog)</p>

	Ben Highmore, "Henri Lefebvre's dialectics of everyday life" in <i>Everyday life and cultural theory</i> (RSV pp. 113-144)
<b>Workshop</b>	A campus mis-guide

<b>October 12, 2007</b>	
<b>No Class</b>	Use this time to work on Assignment #1

<b>October 19, 2007 (ASSIGNMENT # 1 DUE)</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	De Certeau's practice of everyday life & Smith's sociology for people
<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>Michel de Certeau, "General introduction to The Practice of Everyday Life" (ELR pp. 63-75)</p> <p>Ben Highmore, "Michel de Certeau's poetics of everyday life" in <i>Everyday life and cultural theory</i> (RSV pp. 145-173)</p> <p>Dorothy Smith, "A feminist methodology" (ELR pp. 271-281)</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	My neighbourhood

<b>October 26, 2007</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	House & home: daily living, cooking and cleaning
<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>Jean Baudrillard, "Structures of interior design" (ELR pp. 308-318)</p> <p>Luce Giard, "Doing cooking" (ELR pp. 319-324)</p> <p>Daniel Miller, "Making love in supermarkets" (ELR pp. 339-345)</p>

	Sarah Pink, "The housewife and her world: cultural categories and everyday lives" in <i>Home truths: gender, domestic objects and everyday life</i> (CP/RSV pp. 81-100)
<b>Workshop</b>	Open-source meal for six.

<b>November 2, 2007</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Rubbish: it's a dirty job but somebody's got to do it
<b>Seminar</b>	<u>Readings &amp; discussion</u> Jeff Farrell, "Street knowledge" and "Scrapped together" in <i>Empire of scrounge: inside the urban underground of dumpster diving, trash picking, and street scavenging</i> (CP/RSV pp. 73-96 & 129-160)
<b>Workshop</b>	What's in my garbage?

<b>November 9, 2007</b>	
<b>Documentary &amp; discussion</b>	<u>Gates of Heaven</u> (Dir: Errol Morris, 1980)

<b>November 16, 2007</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Mass culture: consumption and creativity
<b>Seminar</b>	<u>Readings &amp; discussion</u> Roland Barthes, "Plastic" (ELR pp. 305-307) Stephen Duncombe, "Zines" in <i>Cultural Studies: from theory to action</i> (CP/RSV pp. 198-208) Siegfried Kracauer, "Boredom" (ELR pp.301-304)

	<p>Johnny Temple, "Noise from underground: punk rock's anarchic rhythms spur a new generation to political activism" in <i>Cultural Studies: from theory to action</i> (CP/RSV pp. 235-240)</p> <p>Paul Willis, "Symbolic creativity" (ELR pp. 282-292)</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	Post Secret

<b>November 23, 2007 (ASSIGNMENT # 2 DUE)</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Citizen-consumers: free to do what?
<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>Mark Paterson, "Consumption and identity: manufacturing choice" and "The knowing consumer?" in <i>Consumption and everyday life</i> (CP/RSV pp. 36-57 &amp; pp. 141-168)</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	No logo?

<b>November 30, 2007</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	DIY or die!: changing modes of production
<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>AnneDorothee Boehme, "Pass It On: Connecting Contemporary Do-It-Yourself Culture" &amp; "Links" (see weblog)</p> <p>Jennifer Sabella, "Craftivism: Is crafting the new activism?" (see weblog)</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	Make your own holiday gifts

**ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS!**

<b>January 11, 2008 (ASSIGNMENT # 3 DUE)</b>	
<b>Student presentations</b>	Everyday technologies

<b>January 18, 2008 (DISCUSSION/WORKSHOP GROUP SIGN-UP)</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Technoscience and the everyday
<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>Mike Michael, "Between technoscience and everyday life" and "Versions of everyday life and technoscience" (TEL pp. 1-40)</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	Luddite-for-a-day

<b>January 25, 2008</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Bodies & identities: electronic animals
<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>Mike Michael, "Technoscientific bodies: making the corporeal in everyday life" (TEL pp. 41-62)</p> <p>Lesley Sharpe, "Body Commodities: the medical value of the human body and its parts" in <i>Bodies, commodities, and biotechnologies</i> (CP/RSV 47-76)</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	Affective contagions

<b>February 1, 2008</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Social life & citizenship: surveillance, control & bare life

<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>Mike Michaels, “Technoscientific citizenship: the micropolitics of everyday life” and “Technoscience and the making of society in everyday life” (TEL pp. 63-108)</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	Boundary practices

<b>February 8, 2008 (ASSIGNMENT # 4 DUE)</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Scale & temporality: the order of things
<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>Mike Michael, “Technoscience and the enactment of everyday spatiality” and “Technoscience, dis/ordering and temporality in everyday life” (TEL pp. 109-151)</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	Making the invisible visible

<b>February 15, 2008</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Technoscience & its others
<b>Seminar</b>	<p><u>Readings &amp; discussion</u></p> <p>Mike Michael, “Conclusion : questions of technoscience, everyday life and identity“ (TEL pp. 152-185)</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	Living laboratories

<b>February 22, 2008</b>	
<b>No Class</b>	Reading Week

<b>February 28, 2008</b>	
<b>Documentary &amp; discussion</b>	<u>Naqoyqatsi</u> (Dir: Godfrey Reggio, 2002)

<b>March 7, 2008</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	When old technologies were new
<b>Seminar</b>	<u>Readings &amp; discussion</u> Lynn Spigel, "Installing the television set" (ELR pp. 325-338) Diane Zimmerman Umble, "Sinful network or divine service: competing meanings of the telephone in Amish country" in <i>New Media 1740-1915</i> (CP/RSV pp. 139-156)
<b>Workshop</b>	De-coding telecom ads

<b>March 14, 2008 (ASSIGNMENT # 5 DUE)</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	High-tech & lo-tech in everyday life
<b>Seminar</b>	<u>Readings &amp; discussion</u> Jennifer Adams, "Recovering a trashed communication genre: Letters as memory, art and collectible" in <i>Residual Media</i> (CP/RSV pp. 185-199) John Davis, "Going analog: Vinylphiles and the consumption of the 'obsolete' vinyl record" in <i>Residual Media</i> (CP/RSV pp. 222-236)
<b>Workshop</b>	Found!

<b>March 21, 2008</b>	
<b>No Class</b>	Good Friday (Holiday)

<b>March 28, 2008</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Networks of things & electronic waste
<b>Seminar</b>	<u>Readings &amp; discussion</u>  Lisa Parks, "Falling apart: electronics salvaging and the global media economy" in <i>Residual Media</i> (CP/RSV pp. 32-47)  Jonathan Sterne, "Out with the trash: on the future of new media" in <i>Residual Media</i> (CP/RSV pp. 16-31)
<b>Workshop</b>	Scrapyard challenge

<b>April 4, 2008</b>	
<b>Lecture</b>	Power and everyday life: conclusions & future directions  * All outstanding assignments returned

**NOTES**