
COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the “surveillance studies” – pandemic version – of CRCJ 3100 Policing (in)security. This year’s course will primarily feature short lectures, guest speakers, and a collection of guest video lectures from the leading Canadian and international scholars in the field of surveillance studies. Surveillance in Western society has become ubiquitous. It impacts virtually all aspects of our public and private lives; from CCTV cameras, to consumer profiling, to risk management practices, to social (media) relationships. As a multidisciplinary field, surveillance studies scholars define surveillance as “any systematic focus on personal information in order to influence, manage, entitle, or control those whose information is collected” (Bennett et al, 2014: 6). Understanding surveillance practices as much broader than merely snooping or eavesdropping, scholarship from surveillance studies underlines how mechanisms of collecting, managing, categorizing are central instruments of modern governance. But, moreover, these functions of “social sorting” result in highly differential forms of visibility and treatment depending how people are categorized and sorted. The result can be discrimination and social exclusion for some populations, while convenience, mobility and privileges are experienced by others.

Our course this year will explore a wide range of surveillance studies topics, presented via leading scholars who have recorded short lectures on their research. COVID has presented a range of challenges to university course delivery, however a pleasant reward is the opportunity to host a class featuring a collection of the leading academics within a field.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

- ~ This course is offered fully online.
- ~ Most weeks will include guest lectures videos that will be posted to CULearn before our scheduled class time.
- ~ Weekly discussion sessions are being held synchronously on Zoom from 11:25am to 2:25pm, Monday. Discussion sessions will consist of a brief overview of weekly materials and the discussion of administrative affairs, assignments, so on.
- ~ Zoom links for each weekly lecture will be circulated prior to Monday’s discussion sessions (probably on the preceding Friday).
- ~ For each class, students will be required to do the corresponding readings (see readings schedule below).
- ~ Please see the evaluation section below for a complete breakdown of the various components of evaluation.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Required readings are all available free online through the CU library, posted on CULearn, or via CULearn through ARES.

We have one required fiction text: *Infinite Detail* (2019) by Tim Maughan, an Ottawa-based writer who has received international acclaim. You are responsible for making your own arrangements for purchasing Tim’s book but I highly recommend purchasing it from Perfect Books. At the time of submitting my syllabus, they have copies in store. You can also order them from their website: <http://perfectbooks.ca/wp/>

If you’d like an introductory guide to the field of surveillance studies, I would recommend a reading of *Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada* (2014) authored by Colin Bennett, David Lyon, Kevin D. Haggerty, and Valerie Steeves. This book is an excellent resource and will be helpful for your writing assignments and final essays. The book is available for free here: https://www.aupress.ca/app/uploads/120237_99Z_Bennett_et_al_2014-Transparent_Lives.pdf

EVALUATION

(All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade)

Please note: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

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| Guest speaker reflections (x2) | 20% | Due: Oct 9; Nov 13 |
| Critical weekly reading reflections (x4) | 20% | Due: Sept 25; Varies |
| Essay outline and annotated bibliography | 10% | Due: Oct 23 |
| Book review | 20% | Due: Nov 20 |
| Research essay | 30% | Due: Dec 4 |

Guest speaker reflections

1000-1500 words (max). Marked on 20 (worth 20%).

Our course will have two live guest speakers via Zoom. (Week 4 and Week 9). Guest speakers will provide a short presentation, then open to class to a Q&A session. Students are expected to come prepared (and demonstrate their preparedness) with questions and discussion points based on the weekly readings. Following the discussion, you must submit a short reflection piece that engages with the presentation by using the concepts from the readings and lectures to critically reflect on key issues raised by the guest speaker. These reflections can contain some summary material but should be focused on providing analysis of the key issues. Guidance for reviews will be provided following each guest speaker.

Students must have attended and participated in the Zoom guest lecture to submit a reflection piece. Submission without attendance is considered academic dishonesty. Submissions will be due by the Friday of each week that includes a guest speaker. Reflections are to be submitted online. No emailed assignments will be accepted. Late assignments lose one mark per day, no assignments will be accepted beyond 7 days late.

Critical weekly reading reflections

Must submit 4 reflections on weekly readings. 1000-1500 words (max). Each reflection is marked on 20; worth a total of worth 20% of the course mark.

Critical reflections are to be short, concise engagements with the weekly readings. Submissions should provide a synthesis of key concepts and key arguments from the readings. Empirical findings or examples from the readings can be discussed. Students are encouraged to apply the main themes or concepts (or examples) from the readings to other contemporary issues, relating how the readings can inform our understanding of social or political events.

Students are required to submit a critical reflection on Week 2 (due Sept 25). Subsequently, you can select 3 weeks from the remaining 6 eligible weeks to provide a critical reflection. The eligible weeks are: Week 3, Week 5, Week 6, Week 7, Week 11, Week 12. Non-eligible weeks include: Week 1 (introduction), Week 4 (Policing the Pandemic with Alex McClelland), Week 9 (Digitalism with Abigail Curlew) and Week 10 (Infinite Detail with Tim Maughan) as they have their own assignments. Weekly reflection submissions will be due by the Friday after the specific week being reflected upon (4 days after our class). Reflections are to be submitted online. No emailed assignments will be accepted. Late assignments lose one mark per day, no assignments will be accepted beyond 7 days late.

Outline and annotated bibliography

4-5 pages. Marked on 10 (worth 10%). Due: October 23 (Friday of Week 6)

Students must provide a one-page, single-spaced outline of their proposed research essay. The outline must outline their research topic and identify case study(ies) that will be used to explore the topic. The outline should give a sense of preliminary research, highlighting major issues, debates, challenges, etc., that are germane to the research topic.

Students must also provide a 3-4 page annotated bibliography. The bibliography should have minimum 10 academic citations regarding the field or topic under investigation. Each entry should have 2-3 sentences outlining the relevance of the entry to the research topic. Major works in the area should be identified. The annotated bibliography should also list 5-10 references of 'case study' references to highlight the case study component of the research paper. Detailed instructions for creating the outline and annotated bibliography will be provided during Zoom class sessions.

Submissions are to be submitted on CULearn. No emailed assignments will be accepted. Late assignments lose one mark per day, no assignments will be accepted beyond 7 days late.

Book Review

1000-1500 words (max). Due: November 20.

We will be reading one work of fiction, Tim Maughan's new novel *Infinite Detail*. Students should start reading *Infinite Detail* at the beginning of class. Tim will join us for a discussion of the book during week 10. Students are expected to read and critically engage with the book. Instructions will be provided in class. A useful guide to writing an academic book review essay can be found here: <http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/bookreview>

Students must attend and participate in the Zoom discussion with Tim in order to submit a book review. Submission without attendance is considered academic dishonesty. Submissions will be due November 20 (Friday of week 10) and will be submitted online. No emailed assignments will be accepted. Late assignments lose one mark per day, no assignments will be accepted beyond 7 days late.

Research Essay

15-20 pages, double-spaced, due December 11th. The research essay must address a contemporary issue of surveillance and society. We will discuss options for the research essay in class. Please consider consulting with me (via email) beforehand to discuss topics or other issues related to the essay.

Submissions will be online via CULearn. No emailed assignments will be accepted. Late assignments will not be accepted without a medical note.

CARLETON UNIVERSITY STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

CARLETON UNIVERSITY STATEMENT ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED WEEKLY READINGS

Week 1 (Sept 14) Introduction

No readings required.

Week 2 (Sept 21) Surveillance Key Concepts

Featuring a recorded lecture by Kevin Haggerty, University of Alberta.

Haggerty, Kevin. 2006. "Tear down the walls: on demolishing the panopticon." In *Theorizing Surveillance*, pp. 37-59. Willan.

Haggerty, Kevin D., and Richard V. Ericson. 2000. "The surveillant assemblage." *The British journal of Sociology* 51, no. 4: 605-622.

*** critical reflection on this week's readings is required.

Week 3 (Sept 28): Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, and Automation

Featuring recorded lectures from Mark Andrejevic (Monash University) and Mike Zajko (UBC).

Andrejevic, Mark. 2019. "Automating surveillance." *Surveillance & Society* 17, no. ½: 7-13.

Zajko, Mike. 2020. "Conservative AI and social inequality: Conceptualizing alternatives to bias through social theory." *arXiv*. Available online: <https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/2007/2007.08666.pdf>

Week 4 (Oct 5) Policing the Pandemic

Zoom guest lecture and discussion with Alexander McClelland (Carleton, Criminology).

Please visit: <https://www.policingthepandemic.ca/>

McClelland, Alexander, Alex Luscombe, and Nicholas Buhite. 2020. PPMP Criminal Enforcement Report: April 01 2020 - July 15 2020. Available online: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e8396f40824381145ff603a/t/5f2737042528460dcb88f502/1596405509702/Police+the+Pandemic+Criminal+Enforcement+Report+%285%29.pdf>

Sheptycki, James. 2020. "The politics of policing a pandemic panic." *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology* 53, no. 2: 157-173.

Week 5 (October 12) Statutory holiday

No Class

Week 6 (Oct 19) Surveillance of Social Movements

Recorded lecture by Jeff Monaghan (Carleton University).

Monaghan, Jeffrey and Lucas Melgaço (2018). "Introduction: Taking it to the Streets in the Information Age." In Monaghan and Melgaço (eds) *Protests in the Information Age: Social movements, digital practices, and surveillance*. Routledge: Crime and Security Series.

Biddle, Sam. 2020. "Police Surveilled George Floyd Protests with Help from Twitter-affiliated Startup Dataminr." *The Intercept*, July 9, 2020. <https://theintercept.com/2020/07/09/twitter-dataminr-police-spy-surveillance-black-lives-matter-protests/>

Shere, Anjuli and Jason Nurse. 2020. "Police surveillance of Black Lives Matter shows the danger technology poses to democracy." *The Conversation*, July 24. <https://theconversation.com/police-surveillance-of-black-lives-matter-shows-the-danger-technology-poses-to-democracy-142194>

Barrera, Jorge. 2016. "RCMP intelligence centre compiled list of 89 Indigenous rights activists considered 'threats'." *APTN News*, November 8. <https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/rcmp-intelligence-centre-compiled->

[list-of-89-indigenous-rights-activists-considered-threats/](#)

Week 7 (Oct 26) No Class – Reading week

No Class

Week 8 (Nov 2) Gaming and Surveillance

Recorded lecture with Jennifer Whitson (Waterloo University).

Whitson, Jennifer. 2013. "Gaming the quantified self." *Surveillance & Society* 11, no. 1/2: 163-176.

Whitson, Jennifer, and Bart Simon. 2014. "Game studies meets surveillance studies at the edge of digital culture: An introduction to a special issue on surveillance, games and play." *Surveillance & Society* 12, no. 3: 309-319.

Week 9 (Nov 9) Digilantism, DIY gender policing and transmisogyny

Zoom guest speaker and discussion with Abigail Curlew (Carleton University).

Curlew, Abigail and Jeffrey Monaghan. 2019. "Stalking 'Lolcows' and 'Ratlings': DIY Gender Policing, Far-Right Digilantes, and Anti-Transgender Violence." In *Disinformation and Digital Democracies in the 21st Century*, pp. 24-29. Toronto: The NATO Association of Canada. Available online: <http://natoassociation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/NATO-publication-.pdf>

Jane, E. A. 2014. "'Back to the kitchen, cunt': speaking the unspeakable about online misogyny." *Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies* 28(4): 558-570.

Jane, E. A. 2017. "Feminist Digilante Responses to a Slut-Shaming on Facebook." *Social Media + Society*: 1-10.

Additional content:

Daniel Trottier - Vigilantism and Online Shaming
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJM-D3k039w>

Week 10 (Nov 16) Speculative Fiction w Tim Maughan

Zoom guest speaker and discussion with author Tim Maughan.

Required Reading:

Maughan, Tim. 2019. *Infinite Detail* (A novel). Macmillan Publishing.

Week 11 (Nov 23) Smart Cities and Platform Surveillance

Recorded guest lecture with David Murakami Wood (Queens University).

Wood, David Murakami, and Debra Mackinnon. 2019. "Partial platforms and oligoptic surveillance in the smart city." *Surveillance & Society* 17, no. 1/2: 176-182.

Wood, David Murakami, and Torin Monahan. 2019. "Platform surveillance." *Surveillance & society* 17, no. 1/2: 1-6.

Week 12 (Nov 30) Police Visibility

Featuring a recorded lecture by Ajay Sandhu (Ryerson University)

Sandhu, Ajay, and Kevin D. Haggerty. 2017. "Policing on camera." *Theoretical Criminology* 21, no. 1: 78-95.

Goldsmith, Andrew. 2010. "Policing's new visibility." *The British Journal of Criminology* 50, no. 5: 914-934.

Week 13 (Dec 7)

No class. Office hours for working on final research paper.