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| <b>Online Course Title</b>             | <b>Surveillance Technologies and Cultural Transformations since 9/11</b>  |
| <b>Category</b>                        | Sozialwissenschaften, Politik & Geschichte  |
| <b>Online Course Period</b>            | <b>November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup> 2020</b>   |
| <b>Course Structure</b>                | <p>The course content is equivalent to an on-site course offering 45 contact hours.</p> <p>The study time includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• virtual class room lessons with the lecturer and the fellow students (30%)</li> <li>• group exercises (30%)</li> <li>• assignments and self-study (40%)</li> </ul> <p>Weekly schedule of virtual class room lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course days: Monday and Wednesday</li> <li>• 10.00 am – 12.00 pm (Berlin time, UTC+1)<br/>17.00 pm – 19.00 pm (Beijing time, UTC+8)<br/>20.00 pm – 22.00 pm (Sydney time, UTC+11)<br/>03.00 am – 05.00 am (Chicago time, UTC-6)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Technical Requirements</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC or smart phone)</li> <li>• Stable internet connection</li> <li>• Software: Zoom (video/audio), Moodle (e-learning platform)</li> </ul> <p>Recommended hardware: external headset for better sound quality</p>  |
| <b>Course Level &amp; Target Group</b> | Undergraduate students of all subjects with an academic background and a strong interest in the various aspects of Culture, Literature, Film and Visual Arts, as well as Surveillance Studies.  |
| <b>Course Language</b>                 | This course is taught in English, including readings in English. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class a language level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.  |
| <b>ECTS</b>                            | 5 ECTS  |
| <b>Instructor</b>                      | Dr. Betiel Wasihun  |

## Course Description

This course will examine the impact of surveillance on society by looking at the multifaceted ways technologies, societies and the arts interact. We will explore how surveillance is represented in contemporary literature, film and popular culture. The omnipresence of surveillance jeopardizes the hard-fought enlightened right to privacy, individuality and freedom. The course will map out important themes revolving around surveillance and its repercussions (e.g. visibility, identity, privacy and control as essential elements of today's culture of surveillance). The course provides an overview of the interdisciplinary field of surveillance and covers the latest research in the following major areas: 1. Relationship between surveillance, power and social control; 2. The concept of privacy; 3. Surveillance in the arts and popular culture.

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## Course Schedule

### Week I: The “Watched World Today” and Stasi Surveillance

#### Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

- Introduction to “Surveillance Studies” and course outline

Required reading:

- Lyon, David. “The Watched World Today”, pp. 11-24.
- Lyon, David. “Surveillance Studies. An Overview”, *Surveillance Studies. A Reader*, edited by Torin Monahan and David Murakami Wood, OUP 2018, pp. 18-22.
- Staples, William G., “Everyday Surveillance: Vigilance and Visibility in Postmodern Life”, *ibid.* pp. 14-18

#### Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Stasi: Mass Surveillance in East Germany

Viewing before class:

- *The Lives of Others*, Dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, 2006, film (available online)

Group activity:

- What makes surveillance totalitarian? Discuss with reference to the film and produce videos or podcasts

Required reading:

- Marx, Gary T. “What’s New about the ‘New Surveillance?’ Classifying for Change and Continuity”, *Surveillance Studies. A Reader*, pp. 22-27
- Weller, Toni. “The information state: An Historical perspective on surveillance”, pp. 57-63

Assignment:

- Write a short essay on an aspect of *The Lives of Others* (800-1000 words)

### Week II: Surveillance Theories and Dystopian Novels

#### Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

- Surveillance Theories and Key concepts:
  - Panopticon and Societies of Discipline and Control (Michel Foucault; Gilles Deleuze)
  - Corporate Surveillance and Surveillance Capitalism (Shoshana Zuboff)
  - Liquid Surveillance (Davin Lyon and Zygmunt Bauman)
  - Surveillant Assemblage (Kevin D. Haggerty and Richard V. Ericson)

Required reading:

- Bentham, Jeremy. “*Panopticon Or: The Inspection House*”
- Foucault, Michel. “Panopticism” (from *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*)
- Deleuze, Gilles. “Postscript on the Societies of Control”
- Zuboff, Shoshana. “Big other: surveillance capitalism and the prospects of an information civilization” (2015)

Group activity:

- Organize a mini-conference or a panel discussion on the relationship between pandemic and surveillance and record as video or podcast

### **Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

- *Big Brother is Watching You*: George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*
- Dystopian literature – What is it? Understanding the genre

Required reading:

- Kevin D. Haggerty and Richard v. Ericson: "The Surveillant Assemblage (*Surveillance Studies. A Reader*, pp. 47-51)
- Mathiesen, Thomas. "The Viewer Society. Michel Foucault's 'Panopticon' revisited"
- George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, pp. 3-31
- Peter Marks's essay on "Nineteen Eighty-Four"
- Mike Nellis: "Since Nineteen Eight-Four: Representations of Surveillance in Literary Fiction" (*Surveillance Studies. A Reader*, pp. 394-398)

Assignment:

- Write short essay: How is Surveillance represented in Orwell's *1984*? (800-1000 words)

### **Week III: Surveillance Theories and Dystopian Novels**

#### **Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

- Dave Eggers's *The Circle* (2013)

Required reading:

- Taddicken, Monika. "Privacy, Surveillance, and Self-Disclosure in the Social Web. Exploring the Users's Perspective via Focus Groups"
- Warren and Brandeis. "The Right to Privacy" Deleuze, Gilles. "Postscript on the Societies of Control"
- Bauman, Zygmunt, and David Leon. "Drones and social media"
- boyd, Danah. "Dear Voyeur, Meet Flâneur... Sincerely, Social Media"
- Weber, Rolf: "How Does Privacy Change in the Age of the Internet"

Group activity:

- (task to be set)

#### **Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

- ***The Post-Panoptic Phase***
- Text analysis: Gary Shteyngart's *Super Sad True Love Story* (2010)
- Wrap-up and evaluation

View before class:

- *We Live in Public* (2009), Dir. Ondi Timoner, 2009, documentary (available online)

Required reading:

- Bauman, Zygmunt, and David Leon. "Liquid Surveillance as Post-Panoptic"
- Wood, David Murakami. "Vanishing Surveillance: Ghost-Hunting in the Ubiquitous Surveillance Society"
- Bauman, Zygmunt, and David Leon. "Liquid Surveillance as Post-Panoptic"

Group activity:

- Exchange ideas and opinions via online discussion forum and summarize them to present in class.

#### **Final paper due: Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

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## Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

By the end of the class students will be able to:

- understand the origins of surveillance in contemporary society
  - critically assess the changing social processes in surveillance culture
  - employ surveillance theories
  - examine the effects of surveillance on individuals and cultural production through analysing novels and films
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## Readings

Reading materials will be available via Moodle during the course.

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## Assignments

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, participants will be asked to actively attend all sessions (you may not miss more than one synchronous session), and to hand in weekly assignments as well as an academic paper (5 pages) on the topic.

Submission deadline: last course day.

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## Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of weekly assignments and active participation in class (50%) and the final academic paper (50%).

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## Expectations & Policies

Preparation for lively discussions in the virtual classroom: be on time, have at least the required readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

Group exercises, assignments, and self-study: complete all tasks according to the specified requirements on schedule including handing over to the lecturer.

Commitment in online-class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers).

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honour code and the student code of conduct (see *FAQs* on [www.huwisu.de](http://www.huwisu.de)).

Attendance policy: No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must contact their class lecturer to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office.

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## Your Instructor

Dr. Betiel Wasihun is a Research Associate and Lecturer at the Institute for Philosophy, History of Literature, Science and Technology at the TU Berlin and currently conducts research on surveillance and its cultural and literary manifestations. Before coming to the TU Berlin, she was a Fellow of Lincoln College and a member of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford. She holds an M.A. (2005) and PhD (2009) in German Studies from the University of Heidelberg and was also a Research and Teaching Fellow at the German Department of Yale University (2006-2008).

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Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: September 2020