Sightings
What We See and Why We See It

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THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WILL BE GIVING GUEST LECTURES:

Don Fletcher, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Helen Keller Professor of Research and Education in Low Vision, Callaghan Eye Foundation Hospital
Joey Kennedy, Opinions Editor, The Birmingham News
Larscene Turk, Case Manager for Adults, Birmingham Regional Center of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind
Donald Woods, Curator of Asian Arts, Birmingham Museum of Art
TEXTS:
The following texts are available at the UAB Bookstore and Snoozy’s; you will also purchase a packet of additional reading materials during the first week of class. If you buy—or already own—editions of the texts that are different from the ones ordered for the class, you may have trouble following references to page numbers during the lectures. Books marked with an asterisk (*) are required summer reading (see below).

*William Faulkner, As I Lay Dying
Aldous Huxley, The Doors of Perception
Ken Kesey, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest
N. Scott Momaday, The Way to Rainy Mountain
*Philip Roth, The Human Stain
William Shakespeare, King Lear
Sophocles, Oedipus Rex
*Alice Walker, The Temple of My Familiar

READING REQUIREMENTS:
Reading assignments marked with an asterisk in the syllabus should be read before that class period. In addition to the texts listed above, you will need to buy a packet of photocopied materials containing most of the additional readings; information will be provided about the purchase of this packet on the first day of class.

WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS, DUE DATES, AND GRADE PERCENTAGES:

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SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT:
During the summer you should read As I Lay Dying, The Temple of My Familiar, and The Human Stain. These three novels will be the subject of your first written assignment. Ada Long and Rusty Rushton will lecture on the novels during the first week of class and provide written materials on the literary analysis assignment.

WEEKLY REVIEW SESSIONS (Optional):
Ada Long and/or Rusty Rushton will meet with all interested students on Thursdays, 8:30am – 9:20am, to discuss composition, the written requirements of the course, and any other topics students may want to discuss.
FILMS (Optional):

Course-related films will be shown most Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm in the main lecture room of the Honors House (check the course syllabus for film titles). Attendance at these is optional, except for those students planning to enroll in “Ethnographic Filmmaking” (ANTH 316/616) during the spring term, 2004. All students can receive “Participation in Honors” credit for attendance, however, and exams may include the option of writing about one or more of the films.

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

There will be a separate handout describing the Arrington Partnership/Photography Group Project distributed on the first day of class.

COURSE WEBSITE:

This year the Honors Program’s interdisciplinary course is again “web-enhanced,” which means that many of the course documents, announcements, some lecture materials, as well as helpful external links will be available to you on-line. In addition, you will be using the Communication sections of the website to correspond with one another via email, to participate in discussion threads with other students in the class, especially those in your Arrington group, and to share files with each other and the faculty. Participation in this course will require that you have Internet access and an email account, so if you do not yet have these please get them over the summer.

You will be given a complete set of instructions for accessing and navigating the course website on the first day of class.
SIGHTINGS
What We See and Why We See It

Introduction

Thursday, Aug. 21
9:30am—12:15pm  Introduction, Announcements, Group Assignments, etc.
2:00pm—3:15pm  “The Origin and Evolution of the Eye” (Dail Mullins)
   *Richard Dawkins, “Where d’you get those peepers?”

Tuesday, Aug. 26
9:30am—12:15pm  “The I’s Have It. Fine, But Which I Has It Right? Multiperspectivism in William Faulkner’s As I Lay Dying” (Rusty Rushton)
   *William Faulkner, As I Lay Dying
2:00pm—3:15pm  Organization: Arrington Middle School
6:00pm  Film: “Rashomon” (Akira Kurasawa)

Thursday, Aug. 28
9:30am—12:15pm  “Seeing Through Cultural Lenses” (Ada Long)
   *Alice Walker, The Temple of My Familiar
2:00pm—3:15pm  Class Discussion: Philip Roth’s The Human Stain

The Eye and the Sense of Sight

Tuesday, Sept. 2
9:30am—12:15pm  “Learning to Look: A Visual Vocabulary” (Doug Baulos)
2:00pm—3:15pm  “Tour of the Eye (De Oculis Humani Structura et Usu)” (Mike Sloane)
6:00pm  Film: “Powers of Ten” (Charles and Ray Eames) and “Microcosmos” (Claude Nuridsany/Marie Perennou)
**Thursday, Sept. 4**

9:30am—12:15pm  “Visual Community Studies – Part I” (Rosie O’Beirne, Lori Cormier, and Michele Forman)
* Susan Sontag, “In Plato’s Cave” from *On Photography*

2:00pm—3:15pm  “Light and the Electromagnetic Spectrum” (Dail Mullins)

6:00pm  1st Thursday: “Media History: The Written Word and Visual Image,” Joey Kennedy, Opinion Editor, *The Birmingham News*

**Tuesday, Sept. 9**  [Literary Analysis Due]

9:30am—12:15pm  “Visual Community Studies – Part II” (Rosie O’Beirne, Lori Cormier, and Michele Forman)

1:45pm—3:00pm  Visits to Arrington Middle School

6:00pm  Film: “Devil’s Playground” (Lucy Walker)

**Thursday, Sept. 11**

9:30am—12:15pm  “Dissection of the Cow Eye” (Virginia Volker)

2:00pm—3:15pm  “Disorders and Diseases of the Eye (De Morbis Oculorum et Eorum Curis)” (Mike Sloane)

**Tuesday, Sept. 16**  [Term Paper Proposal Due]

9:30am—10:45am  “The Biochemistry of Vision” (Dail Mullins)

11:00am—12:15pm  “Higher Levels of Vision” (Mike Sloane)

2:00pm—3:15pm  “No Ideas But In Things: Privileging the Visible in Modern Imagist Poetry” (Rusty Rushton)
* Wallace Stevens, “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird”
* Archibald MacLeish, “Ars Poetica”

6:00pm  Film: “Beauty and the Beast” (Jean Cocteau)
Thursday, Sept. 18  [1st Art Homework Assignment Due]

9:30am—10:45am  “Sight and Blindness” (Ada Long)
* Sophocles, Oedipus Rex

11:00am—12:15pm “Historical Ideas of Vision” (Doug Baulos)

2:00pm—3:15pm “Looking Inside the Body: Part I” (Virginia Volker)
* Rita Hardiman and Bailey Jackson, “Racial Identity Development: Understanding Racial Dynamics in College Classrooms and On Campus”
* selections from Embodying Equity: Body Image as an Equity Issue

Enhanced Sight

Tuesday, Sept. 23  [Library Assignment Due]

9:30am—10:45am  “Unweaving the Rainbow: Lenses, Mirrors and Prisms” (Dail Mullins)
* Richard Dawkins, “Barcodes in the Stars” from Unweaving the Rainbow

11:00am – 12:15pm “Low Vision Rehabilitation” (Don Fletcher)

2:00pm—3:15pm Visits to Arrington Middle School

6:00pm Film: “Blind” (Frederic Wiseman)

Thursday, Sept. 25

9:30am—10:45am “Techniques of Epiphany and Magical Devices” (Doug Baulos)

11:00am—12:15pm “Visionary Poetry” (Rusty Rushton)
* John Milton, Invocation to “holy light” (Paradise Lost, Book III, lines 1-55)
* William Wordsworth, “Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey”
* John Keats, “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer”
* Robert Frost, “For Once, Then, Something”
* Maurice Manning, “Shady Grove”

2:00pm—3:15pm “Looking Inside the Body: Part II” (Virginia Volker)

Tuesday, Sept. 30

9:30am—12:15pm “Sight in Blindness” (Ada Long)
* William Shakespeare, King Lear

2:00pm—3:15pm “Binoculars for Blindfolded Eyes” (Doug Baulos)

6:00pm Film: “Un Chien Andalou” (Luis Bunuel) and “Ran” (Akira Kurasawa)
**Thursday, Oct. 2**

9:30am—10:45am  “The Hubble Telescope” (Dail Mullins)

11:00am—12:15pm  “Mental Imagery” (Mike Sloane)
                   *M. W. Matlin, “Imagery” from *Cognition*

2:00pm—3:15pm  “Brain Imaging” (Mike Sloane)
                   *M. T. Banich, “Methods” from *Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuropsychology*

6:00pm  1st Thursday Lecture:  “What Do You Really See?”  (Larscene Turk, Case Manager for Adults, Birmingham Regional Center of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind)

**Tuesday, Oct. 7**  
[**2nd Art Homework Assignment Due**]

9:30am—10:45am  “Peyote and the Huichol Indians of Northern Mexico” (Doug Baulos)

11:00am—12:15pm  “Peyote Presence, British Style” (Rusty Rushton)
                   *Aldous Huxley, “The Doors of Perception”*

2:00pm—3:15pm  Visits to Arrington Middle School

6:00pm  Film:  “My Own Private Idaho” (Gus Van Sant)

**Thursday, Oct. 9**

9:30am—10:45am  “The Chemistry of Psychoactive Agents” (Dail Mullins)
                   *Quick Reference Guide: Common Exogenous Psychoactive Agents - WEB*

11:00am—12:15pm  “Drug-Induced Visual Hallucinations” (Mike Sloane)
                   *R. Metzner, “Hallucinogenic Drugs and Plants in Psychotherapy and Shamanism” from *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*

2:00pm—3:15pm  Instructions for “City as Text”© Explorations (Ada Long and Virginia Volker)

**Tuesday, Oct. 14**

9:00am—6:00pm  **MIDTERM EXAM**

**Thursday, Oct. 16**

9:30am—3:15pm  “City as Text”©
Tuesday, Oct. 21  | [City as Text© Written Assignment Due]
9:30am—12:15pm  | Reports on “City as Text”©
2:00pm—3:15pm  | Visits to Arrington Middle School
6:00pm  | Film: “Wonderland” (John O’Hagan) and “Nanook of the North” (Robert Flaherty)

Illusions and Delusions

Thursday, Oct. 23  | [Term Paper Bibliography, Title and Thesis Statement Due]
9:30am—10:45am  | “Visual Illusions and Biases” (Mike Sloane)
11:00am—12:15pm  | “Artful Darger: The Saga of the Vivian Girls” (Doug Baulos)
2:00pm—3:15pm  | “Brainwashing and the Modern Media” (Virginia Volker)
*James Loewen, selections from *Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong*
*James Loewen, selection from *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*

Tuesday, Oct. 28
9:30am—12:15pm  | “Truth in Illusion” (Ada Long)
                  | Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*
2:00pm—3:00pm  | “UFOs, Alien Abductions, and Government Cover-Ups: The Truth, Alas, Is Not Out There” (Dail Mullins)
*Carl Sagan, “Aliens” from *The Demon-Haunted World*
*Carl Sagan’s Baloney Detection Kit - WEB*
6:00pm  | Film: “Peeping Tom” (Michael Powell)
Thursday, Oct. 30

9:30am—10:45am “Brain Mechanisms of Dreaming” (Mike Sloane)
*O. Flanagan, “Deconstructing Dreams: the Spandrels of Sleep” from Journal of Philosophy

11:00am—12:15pm “Dream Poetry” (Rusty Rushton)
*Sir Philip Sidney, “This night while sleepe begins with heavy wings”
*John Milton, “Methought I saw my late espoused saint”
*Rabindranath Tagore, “She who ever had remained in the depth of my being”
*Louise Gluck, “Happiness”
*Charles Simic, “Leaves”

2:00pm—3:15pm “The Untrained Eye: From the Outside Looking In” (Doug Baulos)

Perspectives

Tuesday, Nov. 4

9:30am—12:15pm “Einstein’s Special and General Theories of Relativity” (Dail Mullins)
*Timothy Ferris, “Einstein’s Sky” from Coming of Age in the Milky Way

2:00pm—3:15pm Visits to Arrington Middle School

6:00pm Film: “A Brief History of Time” (Errol Morris)

Thursday, Nov. 6 [3\textsuperscript{rd} Art Homework Assignment Due]

9:30am—3:15pm “Art Lab: Survival Through Reading and Drawing” (Doug Baulos)

6:00pm 1\textsuperscript{st} Thursday: “Perspectives on Asian Art,” Dr. Donald Woods, Curator of Asian Arts at the Birmingham Museum of Art

Tuesday, Nov. 11

9:30am—10:45am “Images of the ‘Other’ in the White Media” (Virginia Volker)
*Robert M. Entman and Andrew Rojecki, “selections from The Black Image in the White Mind: Media and Race in America
*Selections from Readings for Diversity and Social Justice: An Anthology on Racism, Anti-Semitism, Sexism, Heterosexism, Ableism and Classism

11:00am—12:15pm “The Cognitive Economy of Stereotypes” (Mike Sloane)

2:00pm—3:15pm “Differences in Seeing and Telling” (Ada Long)
N. Scott Momaday, On the Way to Rainy Mountain

6:00pm Film: “Race: The Power of an Illusion” (Christine Herbes-Sommers)
**Thursday, Nov. 13**

9:30am—3:15pm  
Visit to Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and lecture on “Stereotyping of Minorities” (Odessa Woolfolk, Founding Director Emerita of the Civil Rights Institute)

**Tuesday, Nov. 18**

9:30am—12:15pm  
“The Menace of Viewing Ourselves” (Rusty Rushton and Doug Baulos)  
*Michel Foucault, selections from *Discipline and Punish*

2:00pm—3:15pm  
Visits to Arrington Middle School

6:00pm  
Film: “Poison” (Todd Haynes)

**Thursday, Nov. 20**

9:30am—10:45am  
“Fifty Ways to See a Poem” (Ada Long)  
Robert Frost, “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”

11:00am—12:15pm  
“Fifty Ways to Make a Political Decision” (Virginia Volker)  
*Carole Edelsky, “Education for Democracy”*  
*selections from *We the Media: A Citizen’s Guide to Fighting for Democracy*

2:00pm—3:15pm  
“The Birth of the Western Eye” (Rusty Rushton)  
*Camille Paglia, selections from *Sexual Personae*

**Tuesday, Nov. 25**

9:30am—10:45am  
“Why People Cry in Front of Paintings” (Doug Baulos)

11:00am—12:15pm  
“The Neurobiology of Aesthetics” (Mike Sloane)  
*S. Zeki, “The Brain’s Quest for Essentials” from *Inner Vision: An Exploration of Art and the Brain*  
*S. Zeki, “Arts Quest for Essentials” from *Inner Vision: An Exploration of Art and the Brain*  
*S. Zeki, “The Neurology of Abstract and Representational Art” from *Inner Vision: An Exploration of Art and the Brain*

2:00pm—3:15pm  
“Monkey See, Monkey Do: Responses to Viewing Emotion” (Virginia Volker)  
*Shelly Pasnik, “Getting Your Child Thinking and Creating with TV, Computers and Other Media”*

6:00pm  
Film: “La Jetee” (Chris Marker) and “The 400 Blows” (Francois Truffaut)
Thursday, Nov. 27

THANKSGIVING

Tuesday, Dec. 2  [Arrington Photography Group Project Due]

9:30am—3:15pm  Photography Exhibit and BBQ at Spencer Honors House
6:00pm  Film: “Red” (Krzysztop Kieslowski)

Thursday, Dec. 4

9:30am—10:45am  “Reflections on the Semester” (Faculty)
11:00am—12:15pm  Evaluations, Elections, and Discussion of Final Exam
5:00pm—7:00pm  Photography Exhibit and Chicken Dinner at Arrington Middle School

Tuesday, Dec 9

9:00am—6:00pm  FINAL EXAM

Directions to Arrington Middle School

From the Honors House, go west on 10th Ave. So. to Green Springs Highway
Turn left and go about a half-mile to Green Springs Ave (Just past George Ward Park, on the left)
Turn right, go over the I-65 viaduct, and continue as the road becomes Dennison Ave
Continue on Dennison Ave, past the Elmwood Cemetery grounds on the right, until the road ends (and forks) at Jefferson Ave
Bear left onto Jefferson Ave and go almost to the large viaduct you see ahead of you
Just past the 3rd traffic light (counting the one at Dennison and Jefferson), turn left onto 19th Pl SW
Go one block to the entrance to the Arrington Middle School parking lot on your right
Park in the lot and go in the far right-hand door; the school office is to your immediate left