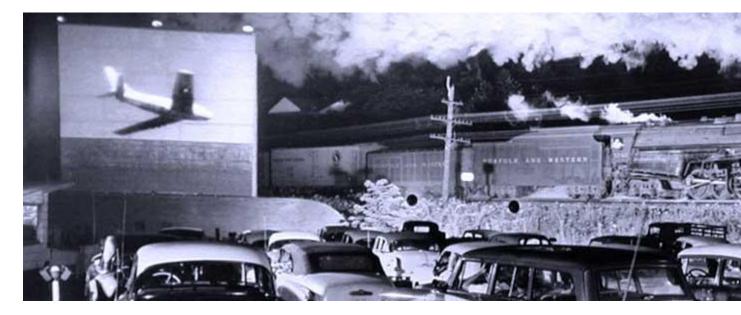
History 615: Technology and American Culture



Spring 2012 HIST 615-11 Dr. Michael O'Malley

NOTE: CLASS IS NOW MEETING IN ROBINSON B 204

Readings

Carr, Nicholas, *The Shallows* Chivers, C.J. *The Gun* Cole, Simon *Suspect Identities* DelBourgo, James, *A Most Amazing Scene of Wonders* Haring, Kristen, *Ham Radio's Technical Culture* Mayr, Otto, *Authority, Liberty and Automatic Machinery* McShane, Clay, and Joel Tarr, *The Horse in the City* Nye, David, *Electrifying America* Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* Rath, Richard, *How Early America Sounded* Schivelbusch, Wolfgang, *The Railway Journey* Singer, Ben, *Melodrama and Modernity* Thompson, Emily, *The Soundscape of Modernity* Brown, John, *The Baldwin Locomotive Works*

Grading

Review of single book 20% Multi-book Review essay 25% Final paper 35% Class participation 20%

Week One: Introduction

Week Two, Pollan, Omnivore's Dilemma

Week Three, Wednesday, September 10: Machines for Governing

Mayr, Authority, Liberty and Automatic Machinery and Foucault, excerpts from Discipline and Punish part <u>1 ch1</u> and <u>pt. III</u> ch. 1

See also "Organic and Mechanical Metaphors in Late Eighteenth-Century American Political Thought," Harvard Law Review, Vol. 110, No. 8 (Jun., 1997), pp. 1832-1849

Week Four: Wednesday, September 17 Electrifying. DelBourgo, A Most Amazing Scene of Wonders

See also Patricia Fara, An Entertainment for Angels: Electricity in the Enlightenment; Henry May, The Enlightenment in America

Week Five, Wednesday, September 24: Electrifying, Part II. Nye, David, *Electrifying America* and Jürgen Martschukat, "The Art of Killing by Electricity: The Sublime and the Electric Chair," in *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 89, No. 3 (Dec., 2002), pp. 900-921 (online)

See also Wolfgang Schivelbusch, Disenchanted Night

Week Six, Wednesday, October 1: Hearing. Rath, How Early America Sounded

See also Mark M. Smith, Listening to Nineteenth Century America, and Smith ed., Hearing History: A Reader

Week Seven, Wednesday, October 8: Hearing II Thompson, Emily, The Soundscape of Modernity

See also Mark Katz, Capturing Sound

Week Eight, Wednesday, October 15: Traveling. Schivelbusch, Wolfgang, The Railway Journey

Week Nine, Wednesday, October 22: Detecting. Cole, Simon Suspect Identities

See also "Federal Judge Slams fingerprint "science" <u>http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1571/is_10_18/ai_84019094;</u> Colin Bevin, *Fingerprints*

Week Ten, Wednesday, October 29: Managing Labor. Brown, *The Baldwin Locomotive Works*, and Frederick W. Taylor, *Principles of Scientific Management*

See also Leo Marx, The Machine in the Garden and John Kasson, Civilizing the Machine

Week Eleven, Wednesday, November 5: Urbanizing. McShane, Clay, and Joel Tarr, The Horse in the City

Week Twelve, Wednesday, November 12: The Industrial Self

Singer, Ben, *Melodrama and Modernity* and A. Roger Ekirch, "Sleep We Have Lost: Pre-industrial Slumber in the British Isles," *The American Historical Review* April 2001 (online)

See also Stephen Kern, The Culture of Time and Space

Week thirteen, Wednesday, November 19: Communicating. Haring, Ham Radio's Technical Culture

See also Susan Douglas, *Inventing American Broadcasting* and Ruth Oldenziel, "Boys and Their Toys: The Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild, 1930-1968, and the Making of a Male Technical Domain," in *Technology and Culture* Vol. 38, No. 1, pp. 60-96

Week Fourteen, Wednesday, December 3: Two Modern Technologies

Either Carr, Nicholas, The Shallows or Chivers, C.J. The Gun