Course Description

This graduate seminar is an in-depth examination of subjects and themes that have emerged from the VSRI’s ongoing “Images Out of Time” project, which considers how images travel through time, dropping in and out of linear histories and reshaping perception, institutions, and social practices along the way. We will study images and objects that are at odds with the moment of their appearance, whether they outlived their initial function or lost contact with their original cultural contexts. Monuments to unjust pasts; icons manifesting fallen gods; ancient ruins in modern structures; replicas and forgeries; old images restored by new technologies: these images force a paradox into view.

While they endure within continuous histories, they also remain stubborn signs of vanished worlds, out of step with the present. Images in the wrong place at the wrong time have justified the civilizing mission of empire and acts of iconoclasm. They continue to structure debates about repatriating artifacts, dismantling monuments and museums, and preserving cultural heritage destroyed by war or exploitation. When “images out of time” suddenly upset our faith in the march of history, they challenge our ability to measure our distance from the past, to understand ourselves, and to imagine collective futures.

Lectures and readings for the course intersect art history, religious studies, history, anthropology, literature, and film, and cuts across divisions separating premodern and modern, as well as European, Atlantic, and Pacific spheres.

Course Structure

Sessions will take place three days per week, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM PST, with a comfort break halfway through. Monday sessions will be led by Professor Mitchell and Professor Schwartz; Wednesday generally will feature distinguished guest lectures; Thursdays will be for student group work which will be in the service of syllabus creation and preparation of course materials for an undergraduate lecture class, “Images out of Time.” The first Thursday will also feature a guest.

Course Requirements

Seminar Participation

Attend all seminar meetings and lectures, keep up with assigned readings, and engage thoughtfully in class discussions.

Please submit three concise questions or comments that focus on any of the assigned readings/visual materials for each session. Your submissions should demonstrate thoughtful synthesis of the material addressed and raise issues worth pursuing in our seminar conversation. These questions/comments will be due to our class wordpress website. Deadline for submission: 10 pm on Sundays and Tuesdays via email to wjtm@uchicago.edu and vschwartz@usc.edu and also to class Slack. Wordpress address: https://6481f9e43dca8.site123.me
Week One: Shapes Of Time and Modern Temporalities

Monday, July 10:

Wednesday, July 12:
Guests: Thomas F. Reese, Professor of Art History and Executive Director of the Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University, and Mary Miller, Sterling Professor Emeritus of Art and Director of the Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage Art of the Ancient New World, Yale University.

Thursday, July 13:
*Progress, Evolution and Science Fiction*
Guest: Ryan Linkof, Curator, Lucas Museum of Narrative Art

Week Two: Pre-History

Monday, July 17:
- Dan Edelstein, Stefanos Geroulanos and Natasha Wheatley, "Chronocenosis: An Intruction to Power
Wednesday, July 19:

Atlantis
Guest: Jonathan L. Dentler, GHI Postdoctoral Fellow

Thursday July 20:
Syllabus Framework
- How to Create a Syllabus.

Week 3: Time Machines and the Future

Monday, July 24:
Prophetic Wisdom and the Shock of New Media

Wednesday July 26:
The Problem of Contemporaneity
Guest: Megan Luke, Professor and Chair of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Tübingen.

Thursday, July 27:
Students present an Image Out of Time

Week 4: Temporal Transformations and the Photographic Image

Monday, July 31:
• Vanessa R. Schwartz article on Time-Life Books to be put in dropbox by July 28.
• Mary Ann Doane, “The Representability of Time,” in *The Emergence of Cinematic Time: Modernity, Contingency, the Archive* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002), 1-32

**Wednesday, August 2:**
*Guest: Jason Hill, Jason Hill, Associate Professor Modern and Contemporary Art and Visual Culture, University of Delaware.*


**Aug 3: Images Out of Time Syllabus Finalized**

**Thursday Seminar Presentations**

In weeks 2–4, our Thursday sessions will be dedicated to creating a syllabus for a class you might teach undergraduates called “images out of time.” Each student will be responsible for a week in the class and as part of that class each student will present a detailed entry on an “Image out of Time” that will also result in a 1500 word essay about the image. Models for this would be entries in “Getting the Picture” (see dropbox files) and also the BBC, “History of the World in 100 Objects.” Students will meet from 9:30-11:30 and Mitchell and Schwartz will join from Noon-1:30 on July 20 and August 3. On July 27 they will join at 10:30.

• July 20: Syllabus Framework
• July 27: Initial Presentation of “Images” by students

Students will divide syllabus into weeks and each student takes a week and prepares two lectures of 50 minutes (as powerpoints that are recorded in zoom) and selects readings and creates a folder of PDFs including their week of required readings and also assembles a folder of images as well. Their “Image out of Time” will ideally relate to their week. Half are due by August 6 and the other half by August 10 . There will be a final session via Zoom where we all meet to discuss the lectures and the class. Date to be
determined. Possibly August 18. This work, individual and collective, will determine the student’s final grade.

**Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

**Academic Conduct:**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

**Support Systems:**

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086 equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu
Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421 studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776 dsp.usc.edu
Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710
studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101
diversity.usc.edu
Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu
Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call dps.usc.edu
Non-emergency assistance or information.