Technologies of the Self
Critical Theory 200B STS 250, Spring 2016

Location: 107 Art Annex
Schedule: 1-4 Tuesdays
Office Hours: 12-2 Mondays
Office: 224a Cruess

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Course Description: While current social and digital media appear to signify an unprecedented focus on celebrating "me", the ability to explore and document the self using technology is an enduring interest that stretches back to the earliest cameras and beyond. Indeed the self-portrait is a longstanding gesture in Western Art that has found unique expression in a variety media. As the medium of the self-portraiture has shifted, the definition of the self has evolved alongside the technological and artistic means for doing so. This course will explore four models of the self that have emerged alongside various technologies and scientific theories in the 20th century. Readings will include selections from Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, Roland Barthes, Michel Foucault, Gilbert Simondon, Norbert Weiner and others. Alongside these texts we will consider a variety of forms of self-portraiture, including photography, documentary film and digital/social media.

Grading: Grading for this course will be as follows:

Attendance & Participation	15%
Summary Response 20%	
Final Essay	65%

Schedule: (Note, schedule is approximate and subject to change.)

Week 1: Course Introduction, Self-Portraiture in Painting
Read: Joseph Leo Koerner, *The Moment of Self-Portraiture in The German Rennaissance,* "Prologue" "Self and Epoch" "The Law of Authorship"
Michel Foucault, "Las Meninas" from *The Order of Things*
Alex Galloway, "The Unworkable Interface" from *The Interface Effect*

Week 2: The Psychoanalytic Self
Read: Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (3rd Edition), focus on "Preface" and Chs. 1, 2, 4, 5.
Freud, "Screen Memories"   Eric

Week 3: The Psychoanalytic Self
Read: Jacques Lacan, *Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*

Week 4: The Cybernetic Self
Read: Norbert Weiner, *The Human Use of Human Beings*

Week 5: The Cybernetic Self
Read: Gilbert Simondon, "Technical Mentality", "Technical Aesthetics" and "The Genesis of the Individual"

Week 6: The Post-Structural Self
Read: Roland Barthes, *Roland Barthes by Roland Barthes*
View: Photographic Self-Portraiture

Week 7: The Post-Structural Self
Read: Michel Foucault, "Technologies of the Self" and *History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*
View: Sadie Benning short films Ante

Week 8: The Contemporary Self
Read: N. Katherine Hayles, *How We Became Post-Human, How We Think*
View: Social Media and the Selfie

Week 9: The Contemporary Self
Read: Brian Massumi, *Parables for the Virtual*
View: Avatars and Other Second-Selves

Week 10: The Contemporary Self
Read: Mark Hansen, *Feed Forward*
View: Self-Tracking Apps, Visualizations