This seminar explores the relation between aesthetic theory and political theory. The focus is on three works: Stanley Cavell’s *The World Viewed*, Jacques Rancière’s *Aisthesis*, and Gilles Deleuze’s *Francis Bacon: The Logic of Sensation*. Given COVID constraints our seminar we follow focus on collective close readings and annotations. Our close readings will be oriented toward elaborating a series of problematics and to articulate their political stakes. For the purpose of our seminar we will attend to the following problematics for each of the works:

- **Cavell, *The World Viewed***: medium ontology and movement
- **Rancière, *Aisthesis***: scenography and partitions of the sensible
- **Deleuze, *Francis Bacon: The Logic of Sensation***: affects and percepts

Alongside these works, we will also explore various texts associated with them as listed in the syllabus. Finally, if you are not familiar with them already, I highly recommend reviewing/reading the following classic works in aesthetic philosophy:

- **Aristotle**: *Poetics* (All, but especially Chapters 1-10)
- **David Hume**: *Treatise*; selections... including: Personal Identity and Part 2; Book I; Part 4: “Of the sceptical and other systems of philosophy”
- **Immanuel Kant**: *Critique of Judgment*; Introduction I-V; Book I: *Analytic of the Beautiful* (Division I, §1-9, 17, 20); On the *Sensus Communis* (Division I, § 39 & 40)

**Required texts:**
- Stanley Cavell: *The World Viewed*,
- Jacques Rancière: *Aisthesis*,
- Gilles Deleuze: *Francis Bacon: The Logic of Sensation*

**Please note:** I have not ordered any of the books or readings at the bookstore, for obvious reasons. Please order (or otherwise procure) the readings on your own.

**Assignments:**

The objective of the course assignments is not to demonstrate mastery, but to practice the capacity and research skill of designing affective schemas and/or cognitive maps of the works that are based on your experiences of reading them, and the associations you make from your readings.
Short weekly assignments for weeks 2-9 (8 x 5% = 40%):

For this course, your weekly assignment involves producing annotated pages and notes of your close readings. Every week you will upload a screenshot /image/upload of 6 pages of annotated reading that you've done and upload that week's typed up (or neatly hand written) notes.

No weekly assignment is due in Week 1 or Week 10.

Longer Assignments (3x20%):

At the end of each of the 3 weeks, after we've completed a major work, you will write a five page (maximum 2500 words) critical summary of the work that explains what the work is about, how it is written, what the work does, what are its principal sites of engagement and intervention, and how it is a work of aesthetics and politics.

Due Dates for Longer Assignments:

Assignment on Cavell’s The World Viewed is due on Monday of Week 4.

Assignment on Rancière’s Aisthesis is due on Monday of Week 7.

Assignment on Deleuze’s Francis Bacon: The Logic of Sensation is due on Monday of Week 10.
Reading Schedule:

The reading schedule is straightforward. Divide each of the major works more or less into thirds and read as much of each third as you can per week, as well as whatever “associated reading” you can do.

Weeks 1-3; Stanley Cavell: *The World Viewed*

Associated Readings:

- Aristotle: *Poetics*
- André Bazin: “The Ontology of Photographic Image”
- Erwin Panofsky: “Style and Medium in the Motion Pictures”
- Michael Fried: “Art and Objecthood”
- Stanley Cavell: “What Becomes of Things on Film?”
  “Film in the University”

Weeks 4-6; Jacques Rancière: *Aisthesis*

Associated Readings:

- Immanuel Kant: *Critique of Judgment*  
  Introduction I-V; Book I: *Analytic of the Beautiful*  
  (Division I, §1-9, 17, 20); On the *Sensus Communis*  
  (Division I, § 39 & 40)
- Panagia/Rancière: “Dissenting Words: A Conversation with Jacques Rancière”
  *Film Fables* (Prologue, 1, 2, &9)  
  Appendix to *Philosopher and His Poor*
- Davide Panagia: *Rancière’s Sentiments*

Weeks 7-9; Gilles Deleuze: *Francis Bacon: The Logic of Sensation*

Associated Readings:

- David Hume: *Treatise*: selections... including: Personal Identity and Part 2; Book I; Part 4: “Of the sceptical and other systems of philosophy”
Gilles Deleuze: The Logic of Sense: pages 100-126; Appendix I: The Simulacra and Ancient Philosophy
Gilles Deleuze: Cinema 2: Intro/7/8
Gilles Deleuze: Empiricism and Subjectivity, Chapter 5 (pages 85-104).
Deleuze & Guattari: “Percepts, Affects, and Concepts” (from What is Philosophy?)
Deleuze & Guattari: “How Do You Make Yourself a Body-Without-Organs” in A Thousand Plateaus (149-167)
Ernst Cassirer: “Eidos & Eidolon: The Problem of Beauty and Art in the Dialogues of Plato (1924)”
Merleau-Ponty: “Cezanne’s Doubt” (from Sense and Nonsense (1948), published originally in the literary journal Fontaine in 1945)

Week 10; OPEN SESSION; but if you wish we can discuss:

Davide Panagia: Ten Theses for an Aesthetics of Politics

(and focus not only on content, but on the development of a program of research in aesthetics and politics.)
Some Other Related Readings:

N. Kompridis (ed.): *The Aesthetic Turn in Political Thought*
K. Ferguson: *The Politics of Judgment*
M. Shapiro: *Cinematic Geopolitics*
M. Schoolman: *A Democratic Enlightenment: The Reconciliation Image, Aesthetic Education, Possible Politics*
L. Zerilli: *A Democratic Theory of Judgment*
F. Ferguson: *Pornography; The Theory*
K. Ferguson: *Emma Goldman: Political Thinking in the Streets*
D. Panagia: *The Poetics of Political Thinking, The Political Life of Sensation, Impressions of Hume*
W. Connolly: *A World of Becoming*
J. Bennett: *Vibrant Matter*
C. Bottici: *Imaginal Politics*
E. Anker: *Orgies of Feeling*
V. Khan: *Wayward Contracts*
T. Docherty: *Aesthetic Democracy*
B. Green: *The Eyes of the People*
J. Greiman: *Democracy’s Spectacle*
C. Tarnopolsky: *Prudes, Perverts, and Tyrants*
B. Honig: *Antigone, Interrupted*
Tompkins: *Racial Indigestion: Eating Bodies in the 19th Century*
E. Manning: *Politics of Touch*
R. Altieri: *The Particulars of Rapture: An Aesthetics of the Affects*
M. Nussbaum: *Upheavals of Thought*
Anne Norton: *95 Theses on Politics, Culture, and Method*
L. Berlant: *Cruel Optimism*
C. Beltrán: *The Trouble with Unity*