

**Department of German  
Northwestern University  
2007/2008**

COURSE: GERMAN 404  
TITLE: German-language Literature, Critical Thought and New Media since 1945  
Instructor: Samuel Weber, Avalon Professor of Humanities  
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DESCRIPTION: Following the end of the Second World War, and particularly in the last few decades, German literary and critical theory was increasingly marked by a concern with media—with literature as a traditional media, and with the advent of “new” media, beginning with photography, and continuing with cinema, radio, television and today, internet and computer-generated texts and images. This course will seek to provide an overview of some of the more influential texts that have participated in this process, which is still very much ongoing and in flux. Emphasis will be placed on the effects the rise of media studies and theory have had—and are having--on the understanding and study of literature.

READING LIST:

Jochen Hörisch, *Eine Geschichte der Medien. Vom Urknall zum Internet* (2004)  
Friedrich Kittler, *Optische Medien* (2002)  
Friedrich Kittler, *Grammophone, Film, Typewriter* (1986)  
Norbert Bolz, “Tele! Polis!” in: Stefan Iglhaut, Armin Medosch, Florian Rötzer (editors), *Stadt am Netz. Ansichten von Telepolis*, pp. 143-150. (1996)  
Villem Flusser, *Medienkultur* (1997)  
Klaus Pias, Joseph Vogl et al, *Kursbuch Medienkultur, Die Massgeblichen Theorien von Brecht bis Baudrillard* (1999)  
Wolfgang Hagen, *Das Radio. Theorie und Geschichte des Hörfunks in Deutschland und der USA*. (2005)  
Sybille Kramer, editor, *Medien, Computer, Realität. Wirklichkeitsvorstellungen und Neue Medien*. (1998)  
Dieter Prokop, *Der Medien-Kapitalismus. Das Lexikon der neuen kritischen Medienforschung*. (2002)

Syllabus:

Week 1: Introduction  
Week 2: Fr. Kittler, *Grammophone, Film, Typewriter*  
Week 3: Fr. Kittler, *Optische Medien*  
Week 4: Norbert Bolz, “Tele! Polis!”  
Week 5: Villem Flusser, *Medienkultur*  
Week 6: Wolfgang Hagen, *Das Radio...*  
Week 7: Klaus Pias, *Kursbuch Medienkultur* (Selections)  
Week 8: Sybille Kramer, *Medien, Computer, Realität* (Selections)

Week 9: Jochen Hörisch, *Eine Geschichte der Medien*  
Week 10: Dieter Prokop, *Der Medien-Kapitalismus*.

#### TEACHING METHOD

Lectures, student presentations, discussions

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

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|----------------------|-----|
| Class participation  | 25% |
| Student Presentation | 25% |
| Term Paper           | 50% |