

Surveillance in Central and Eastern Europe: Social Control Methods Before and After Communism

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Time and day: Monday 13:00 pm -16:00 pm

Office hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers a broad introduction to the various manifestations of surveillance in our past and present everyday life along with how these manifestations impact our understanding of contemporary public and private spheres. The class dialogue will be focused on the analysis of historical rhetoric of surveillance and its wide range of tools used to gain social control and that of its individual members. We will focus on the comparative analysis of different methods of social control practice employed by select former communist states (mainly Czechoslovakia, Poland, and East Germany) during communism and after its fall. As it may appear that the communist organs of state surveillance, namely: StB in Czechoslovakia, Stasi in East Germany, and SB in Poland, ceased to exist with the fall of the totalitarian system, one could argue that the new mechanisms of social control continue to emerge, but this time offering no visible borders for one to easily escape from. The case of post-communist surveillance will be discussed from more inclusive perspective, touching upon the global resonance of 9/11, when surveillance has been legitimized as a tool of social order and also openly questioned by individuals such as Edward Snowden. Moreover, surveillance today and the invasion of one's privacy faces threats from many "little brothers" rather just only the state itself. In this respect, this course will investigate several issues emerging from the relationship between various technologies and societies, as they shape the culture of social control, fear, and empowerment.

Since the course is interdisciplinary in its character, readings and visual material will be drawn from sociology, psychology, history, architecture, visual culture, and popular media. Each class will comprise a lecture, a discussion, film excerpt screenings, and/or a field trip as indicated under each weekly meeting.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course examines the topic of surveillance in our society from cultural, historical, and sociological perspectives. Students will be introduced to the topic through interdisciplinary analysis of contemporary scholarship, as well as its historical roots which will serve as a theoretical point of departure to better understand the shaping process of the various forms of control manifested in our daily life under surveillance.

Upon completion of this course students should be able to understand the following:

- define the role of surveillance in Central and Eastern Europe under communist regime as well as today;
- describe the core problems confronting our reality with increasing expansion of new surveillance methods;
- define and begin using major concepts and theories related to the issue of surveillance;
- understand the changing notion of the public and the private in our society and culture
- be familiar with the ideas of major thinkers in surveillance studies;
- ability to apply critical analysis to current events;

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND BOOKS:

Recommended books:

Ball, K., Haggerty, and David Lyon. 2012. *Routledge Handbook of Surveillance Studies*. London: Routledge.
Boersma, K. 2014. *Histories of State Surveillance in Europe and Beyond*. New York: Routledge.
Dandeker, Christopher. 1994. *Surveillance, Power and Modernity: Bureaucracy and Discipline from 1700 to the Present Day*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Gilliom, John and Torin Monahan. 2013. *SuperVision: An Introduction to the Surveillance*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
Lyon, David. 2007. *Surveillance Studies: An Overview*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Morozov, Evgeny. 2011. *The Dark Side of Internet Freedom: The Net Delusion*. New York: Public Affairs.
Orwell, George. 1949. *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. London: Penguin Books (1989).

GRADING METHOD:

The evaluation will be based on a final grade scale of 100% in the following as they relate to the course's objectives and outcomes:

MID-TERM Exam	20%
FINAL RESEARCH PAPER (Final Exam)	20%
Critical Analysis (there will be 3 of them in the semester)	30%
Topic Presentation (selected class topic)	10%
Final Project Presentation	10%
<u>Class participation</u>	<u>10%</u>
	100%

CLASS ASSESSMENT:

Formative assessment of learning will be provided through the following:

- 1) *Examinations*: Mid-term examination will be on the material covered in the course (readings, lectures, class discussion, videos etc.) and will be given in the middle of semester as indicated by the instructor.
- 2) *Final Research Paper*: The final research paper will have the character of a research project based on selected topic by each student and will require to implement at least **three** readings used/discussed in our class.
- 3) The final paper should be at least **8 pages in length**, excluding bibliography.
All papers must contain appropriate citations in APA or your chosen format (an example sheet will be provided). It is important to include a critical discussion of **at least two** readings covered in our class!
NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED! All papers must be handed in no later than during the final class meeting. **Plagiarized papers will receive a grade "F" with no exceptions.**
- 4) *Critical Analysis*: there are three reading/article analysis to be written by students throughout the semester. Each reading analysis should be **at least 2 pages long** (12 point font Times New Roman or Arial, double-spaced – around 500 words). The shorter response will be penalized by lower grade. The due date of each analysis is indicated on the syllabus.
- 5) *Topic Presentation*: each student will be asked to perform a short presentation on the selected in-class topic.
- 6) *Class Assessment and Participation*: This part of the evaluation includes participation and discussions/debates. Active, constructive participation is required, and suggested readings will be a required and an important part of the course.

- 7) *Absences*: Students must attend all classes. Excused medical absences require a written document the day of return to class. UPCES program does not allow any unexcused absence. Tardiness of more than 20 minutes without a reasonable excuse will be regarded as an absence.

The summative evaluation, in the form of a letter grade, will be based on the formative assessment, class participation, the research paper, and the results of the examinations. In regard to the latter, the students will be responsible for all the topics covered in class as well as the assigned readings and class presentations.

Please be aware that the use of laptop and mobile phones during class session is strictly prohibited! This includes message texting!

Grading scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A	93-100	Outstanding work
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Good work
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable Work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet the minimum standards for passing the course

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Be sure you are aware of the UPCES Academic Integrity Policy and the Code of Conduct that you signed prior to your arrival. If you want to read the policies again, stop by the UPCES office.

UPCES Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy

The UPCES program in Prague promotes a diverse learning environment where the dignity, worth, and differences of each individual are valued and respected. Discrimination and harassment, whether based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or other legally protected characteristic, are repugnant and completely inconsistent with our objectives. Retaliation against individuals for raising good faith claims of harassment and/or discrimination is prohibited.

UPCES Diversity Policy

UPCES fully embraces diversity and strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for students from all backgrounds. Prague is a wonderfully diverse community and UPCES is no different. All students should feel at home while studying abroad and UPCES will do its utmost to make sure that becomes a reality. Although unique challenges may arise, we believe that students from all walks of life will encounter wonderful opportunities for enrichment as they explore a new culture while studying abroad.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1

UPCES Orientation and Lecture Series

Week 2

Course introduction

The Faces of Surveillance: Historical Trace of the Discipline - Between Pleasure and Fear

Required readings:

Lyon, David: "Editorial. Surveillance Studies: Understanding visibility, mobility and the phenetic fix."

Visit to the Cold War Museum at the Jalta Hotel

Week 3

The eye of the camera: looking through the lenses

Historical modes of voyeuristic photography: from street photography, the sexually explicit (or implicit), celebrity stalking, photographs of death and violence, to pictures as evidence.

Required readings:

Sontag, Susan: "On Photography"

Barthes, Roland: "Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography" (1982)

Gilles Deleuze: "Postscript on the Societies of Control"

Selected films (excerpts)

Week 4

Architecture of Surveillance: Between Private and Public Space

Required readings:

Foucault, Michel: "Panopticism"

Mathiesen, Thomas: "The Viewer Society"

Colomina, Beatriz: "X-ray Architecture: Illness as Metaphor"

Selected films (excerpts): *The Circle* (James Ponsoldt, 2017)

Week 5

Surveillance in Art

Required readings:

Monahan, Torin. "Ways of being seen: surveillance art and the interpellation of viewing subject"

Downey, Anthony: "The Lives of Others" Artur Zmijewski's Repetition, the Stanford Prison Experiment, and the Ethics of Surveillance"

Lee, Pamela M.: "Open Secret"

Selected films (excerpts)

1st Reading analysis due

Week 6

Cinematic Apparatus: Movies and Reality TV

Required readings:

Pecora, Vincent: "The Culture of Surveillance"

Andrejevic, Mark (2002): "The Kinder, Gentler Gaze of Big Brother – Reality TV in the Era of Digital Capitalism."

Mulvey, Laura: "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (1975)

Selected films (excerpts)

Peeping Tom (Michael Powell, 1960)

The Rear Window (Alfred Hitchcock, 1954)

Selected excerpts of local Reality TV shows and other relevant movies

Week 7

Mid Term Exam

Surveillance Technologies: From CCTV to drones and biometrics

Required readings:

Mayhen, Stephen: "History of Biometrics"

Crampton, Jeremy W.: "Platform Biometrics"

Week 8

The Internet and Social Media: Privacy Under Surveillance

Required readings:

Morozov, Evgeny: "The Dark Side of Internet Freedom: The Net Delusion" (selected excerpt)

Fuchs, Christian.: "Social Media Surveillance"

Selected films (excerpts)

2nd Reading analysis due

Week 9

Surveillance and national security: Big Brother is Watching You

Required readings:

Orwell, George: "Nineteen Eighty-Four" (1948) - excerpt

Kafka, Franz: "The Castle" (1926) -excerpt

Weller, Toni: "The Information State: An Historical Perspective on Surveillance," in *Routledge Handbook of Surveillance Studies*.

Excursion to the National Archives to view StB files

Week 10

State surveillance and the lives of others: the methods of surveillance under Communism

Required readings:

Darnton, Robert: "The Stasi Files"

Bilek, Libor: "I undertake voluntarily..." In *Behind the Iron Curtain*, Vol. 4 (2016)

USTRC, *Prague through the Lens of the Secret Police* (exhibition catalog excerpts)

Recommended Reading:

Lukes, Igor, *KAMEN: A Cold War Dangle Operation with an American Dimension*.

Films (excerpts):

The Lives of Others (Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, 2006)

Ucho/ The Ear (Karel Kachyna, 1970)

Week 11

The state of surveillance in Post-communist decade: New Visibilities and Invisibilities; Self-tracking devices and wearables; Covid-19 vaccination passports

Required readings:

Svenonius, Ola: "Surveillance in a Post-Communist Perspective"

Deborah Lupton: "Self-tracking, health and medicine" (2017)

Selected films (excerpts)

3rd Reading analysis due

Week 12

Economics of Surveillance: Corporate Surveillance Surveillance and Race

Required readings:

Pridmore, Jason: "Consumer Surveillance", in *Routledge Handbook of Surveillance Studies*

Zuboff, Shoshana: "Big other: surveillance capitalism and the prospects of an information civilization"

Selected films (excerpts)

Week 13

Final Exam Week/ Student's Presentations. Final paper is due!!!