

## **The Self: Identity and Subjectivity**

Chris Johnson

[chrisjohnso@earthlink.net](mailto:chrisjohnso@earthlink.net)

Web Site

<http://blackvistas.com/index.html>

password "culture"

This senior seminar will present approaches to identity and subjectivity. We will read about and discuss the culture of the self, or identity, and, experience, or subjectivity, as a way to clarify and make accessible the topics that class participants might be interested in pursuing. We will also consider notions of the fragmented self, and, the self and identity for author and audience. By using subjecthood as a base, course participants will be encouraged to devise individual and group projects.

All readings will be available via the course web site.

Participants are required to (1) create and present a project proposal early in the semester, (2) turn in a project draft by mid semester, and (3) complete an in-class presentation towards the end of term.

---

All writing assignments must be typed. Please double-space the lines and use one-inch margins on all sides of the page.

Final grades will depend 60% on submitted work and 40% on class participation.

Please inform me of any medical issues that may influence your attendance and performance in class.

More than four class absences result in automatic failure of the course. Recurring tardiness will be reflected in the final grade.

Plagiarism occurs when one writer copies the words of another writer without attributing the words to the source. Unattributed copying will result in course failure.

**Course calendar** (subject to change)

<b>Week</b>		<b>Theme</b>	<b>Activities</b>
One		The Visual Self	
Two		The Radicals	
Three		Resistance	<b>Library presentation</b>
Four		Truth	
Five			<b>In-class presentations</b>
Six			<b>In-class advising</b>
Seven	<b>Draft</b>	Black and Latin	
Eight		Making the Modern	
Nine		Formulas	
Ten		The Past	
Eleven		Ethnicity	
Twelve		Cultural Politics	
Thirteen			<b>Reading period</b>
Fourteen			<b>In-class workshops</b>
Fifteen	<b>Final</b>		<b>Reading period</b>

**Class Schedule** (subject to change)

---

**The Visual Self**

Course Introduction

*Reading excerpt from*

Invisible man. Ralph Ellison. 1952, 1995.

Picturing the self : changing views of the subject in visual culture. Gen Doy. 2005.

---

**The Radicals**

*Reading excerpt from*

Feminist visual culture. edited by Fiona Carson and Claire Pajaczkowska. 2001.

Reclaiming culture : indigenous people and self-representation. Joy Hendry. 2005.

---

**Resistance**

*Reading excerpt from*

The river flows on : Black resistance, culture, and identity formation in early America. Walter C. Rucker. 2006.

Conversing by signs : poetics of implication in colonial New England culture. Robert Blair. 1998.

---

**Truth**

*Reading excerpt from*

Beyond the exotic : women's histories in Islamic societies. edited by Amira El-Azhary Sonbol. 2005.

Bearing witness : women and the truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. Fiona C. Ross. 2003.

---

**Black and Latin**

*Reading excerpt from*

The Black "I" : author and audience in African-American literature. Devon Boan. 2002.

Latino Pentecostal identity : evangelical faith, self, and society. Arlene M. Sánchez Walsh. 2003.

---

**Making the Modern**

*Reading excerpt from*

The making of the modern self : identity and culture in eighteenth-century England. Dror Wahrman. 2004.

Maps and monsters in medieval England. Asa Simon Mittman. 2006.

---

### **Formulas**

*Reading excerpt from*

Linking the Americas : race, hybrid discourses, and the reformulation of feminine identity. Lesley Feracho. 2005.

Blackness without ethnicity : constructing race in Brazil. Livio Sansone. 2003.

---

### **The Past**

*Reading excerpt from*

Painting women : cosmetics, canvases, and early modern culture. Patricia Phillippy. 2006.

The fair sex : white women and racial patriarchy in the early American Republic. Pauline Schloesser. 2002.

---

### **Ethnicity**

*Reading excerpt from*

Boundaries of self and other in Ghanaian popular culture. Joseph K. Adjaye. 2004.

Marriage, gender, and sex in a contemporary Chinese village. Sun-pong Yuen, Pui-lam Law, and Yuk-ying Ho ; translated by Fong-ying Yu. English language ed. 2004.

---

### **Cultural Politics**

*Reading excerpt from*

Women witnessing terror : testimony and the cultural politics of human rights. Anne Cubilié. 2005.