This course provides an introduction to the major theories of media, from the earliest writings about film to contemporary approaches to digital media. Even more important, the class gives you the conceptual and analytical tools to map and navigate aesthetic and technological forms as well as industrial and reception practices across historical periods. Lectures, screenings and discussions encompass issues of realism, semiology, psychoanalysis, authorship and genre, feminism, postcolonial, national and transnational cinema, cultural studies, representation, audiences and stardom. The emphasis falls on analyzing and making theoretical arguments in order to understand our own relationships to contemporary media culture.