Course Description

This course explores the ways surveillance technologies are shaping society, the economy, and governance. From fitness trackers, biometrics, CCTV technologies, and credit card transactions, surveillance technologies are constituting new forms of power and control, and are transforming what it means to be a citizen, a worker, and a consumer. These power effects shape everybody’s life, but they are unevenly distributed. Surveillance more dramatically affects individuals and communities marginalized due to sex, gender, race, class, ethnicity, age, and national origin. As important as understanding surveillance and the power effects surveillance generates, we need to also understand the way communities and individuals use political and technological tactics to push back against surveillance regimes. The class is designed to give you the social and technological literacy necessary to understand and respond to our current surveillance regime.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will understand key concepts, theories, and debates in surveillance studies.
- Students will produce a toolkit to educate a wider public about a specific surveillance technology.
- Students will be able to evaluate and analyze the effects of surveillance on marginalized or minoritized communities.
- Students will learn and use textual and visual analysis to understand cultural representations and narratives of surveillance regimes.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials


Most assigned texts are available electronically via USC Libraries, but alternately you can also purchase them from your favorite independent bookstore. Required course readings not available via USC Libraries will be made available via the content section of Blackboard. Lecture PowerPoint presentations
will be posted to the content section of Blackboard following each class session. *The instructor may change the syllabus at any time during the course in order to better serve the intellectual mission of the course.*

**THEMATIC SCHEDULE BY WEEK**

**UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO SURVEILLANCE AND POWER**

**Week 1: Models of Surveillance – Discipline and Control**


**Week 2: Crisis in the Post-9/11 (In)Security State**


**Week 3: Racializing Surveillance**


**UNIT 2: TECHNOLOGIES, SYSTEMS, SITES**

**Week 4 & 5: Algorithms – Proxies, Patterns, Discrimination**


**Week 6: Policing – Data, Prediction, Blackness**


**Week 7: Borders – Biometrics, Screening, Mobility**

**Week 8: Drones – Evidence, Violence, Testimony**


**Week 9 & 10: Biometrics, Data Tracking**


**UNIT 3 | RESISTANCE**

**Week 11: Politics + Art**


**Week 12: Grassroots Organizing, Action Networks, and Protest**


**Week 13 & 14: Anonymity versus surveillance**


