The course will explore the intersection of race and ethnicity with contemporary film and new media technologies in the so-called “post Civil Rights” and “post television” eras. There will be three main modules for the course: 1) Digital and New Media Theories and Discourses; 2) Mediating Race and Ethnicity; and 3) Film in the Age of Digital Reproduction. Informed by the studies and rhetorics of new media and convergence cultures, this three-part course examines how digital media technologies simultaneously destabilize and affirm many of our canonical views about medium specificity (vis-à-vis philosophies, ontologies, and epistemologies of film, video, and digital technologies). For example, Andre Bazin’s key question “Qu’est-ce que le cinéma?” or What is Cinema? remains relevant to today’s critical concern over what exactly constitutes new media. This course draws upon the works of Lev Manovich’s The Language of New Media, Anna Everett’s edited volume Learning Race and Ethnicity: Youth and Digital Media, Anna Everett and John T. Caldwell’s, New Media anthology, and Henry Jenkins’s Convergence Culture, among others. This course will be a seminar with a separate screening period, and final presentations by students in conference format.

Prof. Anna Everett is the the F. Ross Johnson-Connaught Distinguished Visitor in the Centre for the Study of the United States for 2008-09. She is Chair of Film and Media Studies, University of California Santa Barbara. She works in the fields of film and TV history/theory, African-American film and culture, and Digital Media Technologies. She is the author of Returning the Gaze: A Genealogy of Black Film Criticism, 1909-1949 (Duke Univ. Press, 2001) and is currently at work on books titled Digital Diaspora: A Race for Cyberspace, and Inside the Dark Museum: An Anthology of Black Film Criticism, 1909-1959. Recent articles include: “The Revolution Will Be Digitized: Afrocentricity and the Digital Public Sphere” (Social Text, Summer 2002) and “The Black Press in the Age of Digital Reproduction” (The Black Press, 2001).

Course Meetings:
The course will meet Monday, September 15th, 4:00-6:30 p.m. for an orientation session, and then Mon, Tues, and Thurs, 4:00-6:30 pm., between Monday October 6th – Thursday Oct. 23rd 2008. There will be no class on Monday Oct. 13 due to Canadian Thanksgiving; this class session will be made up via screenings, to be scheduled later. Classroom location: Innis College, room 313.

Registration:
Registration for this special opportunity course will be reserved for primarily graduate students in Cinema Studies and Comp Lit; a number of seats will be reserved for advanced undergraduates, with a preference for majors and minors in American Studies and Cinema Studies. Grad students can enroll via ROSI through the Centre for Comparative Literature via ROSI using course number COL 5076 H1F. If you are a grad student and having trouble enrolling, please contact Bao Nguyen at 416-813-4041, or banguyen@utoronto.ca. Undergrad students can enroll on ROSI for USA400H1 F L0101; please note that there is a prerequisite of at least two courses from the American Studies course list. Cinema Studies undergrads who do not meet this requirement should write a request to Benjamin Pottruff, providing information on background preparation, GPA, and reasons for taking the course to: benjamin.pottruff@utoronto.ca.

More questions? Students should contact Ben Pottruff, American Studies Academic Advisor, at benjamin.pottruff@utoronto.ca

Other inquiries: Director, CSUS at csus.director@utoronto.ca or 416-946-8011