REL 595 Religion, Art, Aesthetics: Technology   office: HL 509
Zachary Braiterman   hours: by appointment
Spring 2013   zbraiter@syr.edu
T 3:30-6:15, HL 504

In this seminar we will look to the appearance of "men," machines, monsters, and animals as keys to understanding the intersection of religion with auratic aesthetics, technology, and new media. Readings extend from classical theorists of technology, including Kafka, Benjamin, Heidegger, and then move on to postwar technological aesthetics.

Course Requirements

    Class participation
    Weekly Critiques (1 page) (required, but not for credit)
    Mid-term paper (5 pages)
    Final paper (12-15 pages)

Required texts:

Rilke, *Duino Elegies*
Kafka, *Complete Stories*
Benjamin, *Illuminations*
Adorno, *Aesthetic Theory*
Barthes, *Camera Lucida,*
Flusser, *Into the Universe of Technical Images,*

Films

View on your own, but be ready to discuss on 2/12:
--Paul Wegener, The Golem (streaming on Netflix)
--Fritz Lang, *Metropolis* (streaming on Netflix)
--Robert Wiene, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (streaming on Netflix)
--Michal Waszynski, *The Dybbuk* (on reserve at Byrd Library)

Readings

1/15   class introductions

1/22   Rilke, *Duino Elegies* and selections from Buber, *Legends of the Baal Shem*

1/29   selections on Rosenzweig and prayer, Scholem on symbolism, TBA

2/5   Kafka, "Penal Colony," "Great Wall of China," "Investigations of a Dog," "The Burrow"

2/12   Kracauer on film, TBA Discuss Dybbuk, Golem, Caligari, Metropolis

2/19   Heidegger, selections from *Being & Time*, "The Question of Technology," Dwelling

2/26   Benjamin, *Illuminations:* "Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," "On
        Some Motifs in Baudelaire," "Some Notes on Kafka"

3/5   Adorno, selections from *Aesthetic Theory,* TBA

3/19   Selections from Lewis Mumford, *Technics & Civilization,* and Donna Haraway, "Cyborg
        Manifesto"

3/26   NO CLASS: FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER.

4/2   Barthes, *Camera Lucida*

4/9   Krauss, "Grid," "Index 1" and "Index 2"

4/16   Flusser, *Into the Universe of Technical Images*

4/23   selections from Jeremy Stolow (ed.) *Deus in Machina* and Lev Manovich, *Language of
        New Media*

4/30   selections from Neil Folberg Richlin, Thomas Carlson

        **** Final Exam DUE last day of exams ****