Instrumentality

Instructor: Jonathan De Souza

Course Description
Hammers, spoons, pianos, microscopes, ballpoint pens, knitting needles, compasses, laptops, and machine guns… Humans are surrounded by instruments. How do we use such objects? And how do they use us? This course will examine varied instruments in art, science, and everyday life, with help from phenomenology, organology (the study of musical instruments), history of science, media theory, and cognitive anthropology. Attending to the interplay of technology and technique, we will ask how instruments can affect not only human action but also perception and knowledge.

Selected Texts