Cyberwar Theory
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Cyberwar is all the rage today. Stories of Russian election hacking, Chinese networked espionage, jihadi virtual recruitment, and Pentagon contracts in Silicon Valley abound, mostly told by spooks, hypesters, politicians and journalists. This course, however, examines the idea of cyberwar as the site of an encounter between two bodies of critical theory, one dealing with “cyber”—the realm of the digital, the other with “war”—the domain of organized violence. It defines cyberwar in a broad sense, not just as military hacking, but as a phenomenon with constitutive adjacencies to and overlaps with cyber-crime and cyber-activism, surveillance, terrorism, drones and autonomous weaponry. From this vantage point, we will study Marxist, Lacanian, Derridean, and Deleuzian accounts of cyberwar, and the prescient work of war theorists such as Virilio and Kittler; the relation of cyberwar to classical theories of war and international relations, from Clausewitz to Schmitt; and the rapidly emergent field of feminist and postcolonial cyberwar studies. The seminar will thus offer a far ranging examination of critical thought on the current wave of digital militarism. It will be geared to the interests of seminar participants; if you are considering taking the course and would like to propose particular texts for study, feel free to contact ncdyerwi@uwo.ca in advance.

Provisional Bibliography


Éric Alliez and Maurizio Lazzarato. Wars and Capital. Semiotext(e), 2018.

Wendy Chun. “Crisis, Crisis, Crisis, or Sovereignty and Networks.” Theory Culture & Society 28, 2011.


Bruce Schneier. Click Here to Kill Everybody Norton. 2018.

