HUMANITIES SUMMER SCHOOL
COURSES

Period: 4 – 15 July 2022

Visual Culture: Digital Images, Virtual Reality, Videogames and their Cultural Roots

Instructor to be announced.

This course explores the world of images, from classic photographs to digital images and virtual reality, analyzing how contemporary outputs are culturally rooted in traditional visual representations, although they may seem very far from them. Today we entertain a relationship with images which is physical and multisensory: virtual realities, videogames are immersive and involve far more than a sight experience. Touch conditions the form of images which, in a way, are also literally ‘digital’, as fingers’ abilities are crucial for interactivity. We need to discover the ‘archeology’ and the archives that ground contemporary visual culture, in order to understand it.

Cultural Constructs through Food in Films

Prof. Gloria Pastorino (Fairleigh Dickinson University), Prof. Martin Donoff (formerly at Fairleigh Dickinson University)

In the past few decades, a new film genre that appeals to both film and cultural studies has developed: Food Films. These are films in which the presence of food, its preparation, and its consumption are functional (and central) to the development of the storyline, acting as a socio-political lens through which culture and interpersonal relationships are seen. This course examines some of the cultural, political, and economic issues raised by Food Films, including cultural identification and appropriation, stereotypes, gender roles, belonging, othering, and food as simulated tourism or magic.