The Political Image

The Political Image

Task Two

28th November – 5th December

Fundamentalism, simplistic narratives, conspiracy theories, post-factual politics, gender pay gaps, Brexit, perpetuated representations of Otherness, new levels of anxiety and depression… the list goes on.

It's easy to become pessimistic about our future, but the power of art often lies in its ability to challenge and subvert the dominant ideologies of our times. This week your task is to respond to a news headline. Source your news headline in a printed newspaper or online, and respond to the themes it addresses.

Think about the strategies of representation you may use (Collage, Appropriation, Documentary Photography, Image and Text etc.)

Assignment Specification

Respond to the text given to you in 3 – 5 digital images.

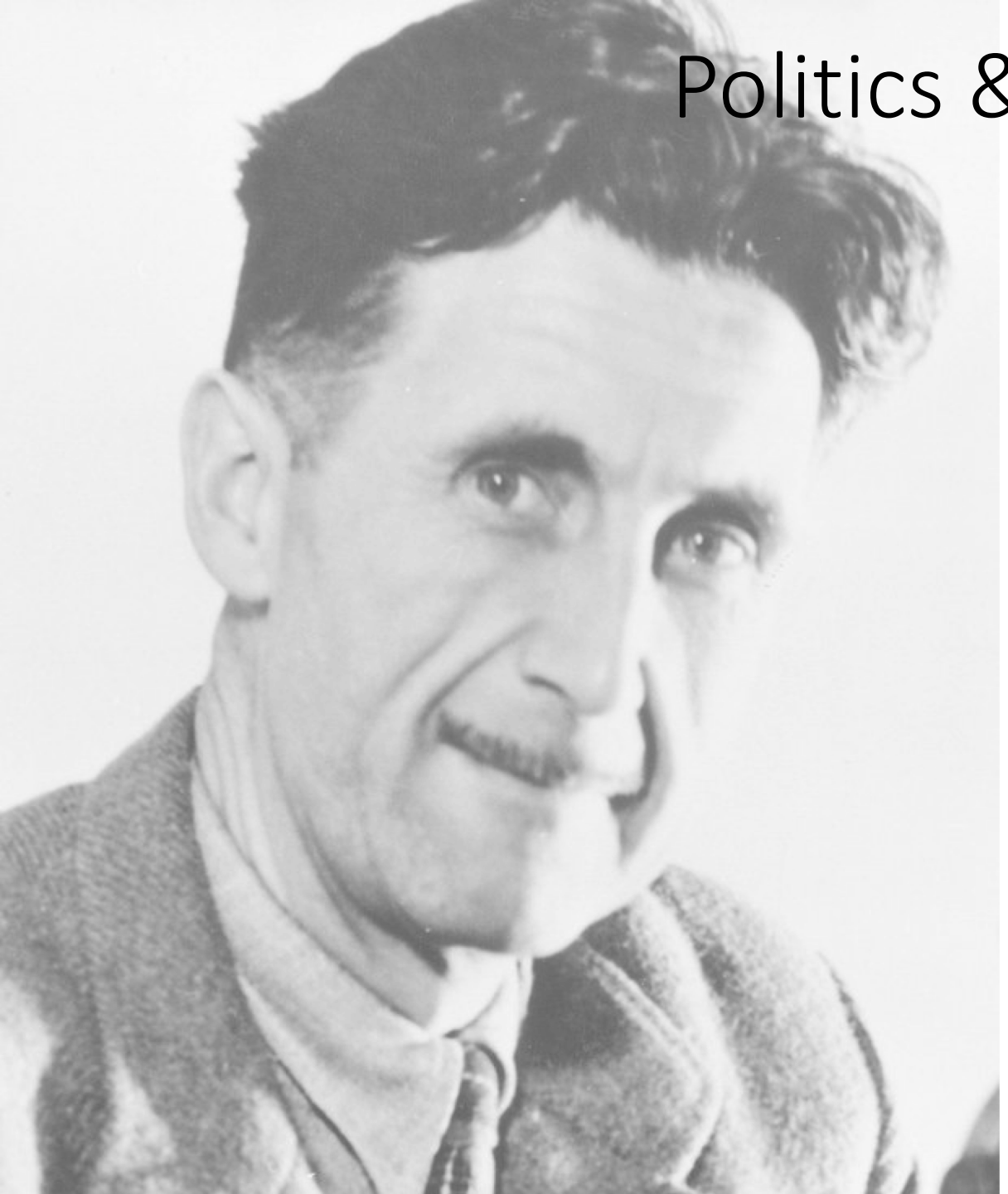
Print the images on the laser printer (cheap prints) at A4 or A3 and bring to next Tuesday afternoons session.

POLITICS

- the activities of the government, members of law-making organizations, or people who try to influence the way a country is governed.

- the study of the ways in which a country is governed.

- The relationships within a group or organization that allow particular people to have **power** over others.



Politics & Power

“In our age there is no such thing as 'keeping out of politics.”

“All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia.”

“The opinion that art should have nothing to do with politics is itself a political attitude.”

George Orwell

Politics & Power

‘Who controls the past…controls the future…

…who controls the present controls the past.’

George Orwell

What is capitalism?

an economic, political and social system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state.



HISTORY OF IDEAS - Capitalism - YouTube

YouTube · The School of Life

https://www.google.com/search?q=capitalism+school+of+life&rlz=1C5CHFA_enGB744GB745&oq=capitalism+school+of+life&aqs=chrome..69i57j0.4511j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Jacob Riis, Lewis Hine, Dorothea Lange





Writers/thinkers who deconstruct ‘power’:

- Noam Chomsky
- Naomi Klein
- John Pilger
- Owen Jones

POWER

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBJTeNTZtGU

NEITSCHZ



BOURGEOIS

CAPITALIST

MARXIST

a central theme that runs through Foucault's work is the inter-relationship between power and knowledge

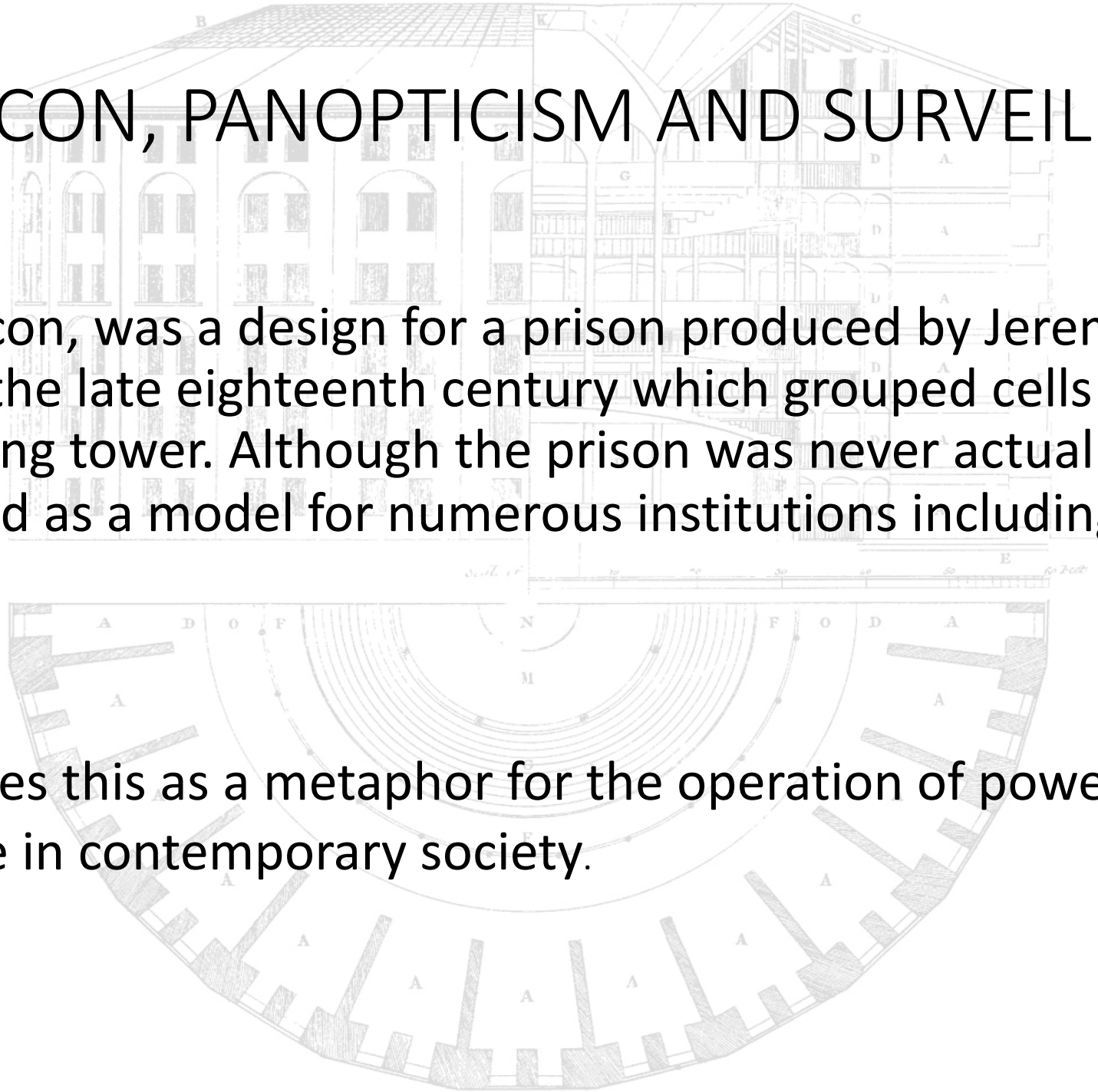
FOOK – OH!

Foucault : Discourse

For Foucault, a **discourse** is an **institutionalized way of speaking or writing about reality** that defines what can be intelligibly thought and said about the world and what **cannot**.

Foucault was interested in the phenomenon of **discourse** throughout his career, primarily in how discourses define the **reality** of the social world and the people, ideas, and things that inhabit it.

PANOPTICON, PANOPTICISM AND SURVEILLANCE



The Panopticon, was a design for a prison produced by Jeremy Bentham in the late eighteenth century which grouped cells around a central viewing tower. Although the prison was never actually built the idea was used as a model for numerous institutions including some prisons.

Foucault uses this as a metaphor for the operation of power and surveillance in contemporary society.

REGIMES OF TRUTH

Foucault defines ‘regimes of truth’ as the historically specific mechanisms which produce discourses which function as true in particular times and places.

THE MEDIA….A REGIME OF TRUTH?

- What do we mean by mainstream media (MSM)?

RADIO

NEWSPAPERS

TV

INTERNET? – SOCIAL MEDIA?

Who owns the media?

What makes an image political?

- The content?
- The photographer?
- Its location?
- The medium?





What’s wrong with this image..?

https://edition.cnn.com/2013/09/01/world/gallery/iconic-images/index.html

How do we de-construct images looking at power/politics?

The most political decision you make is where you direct people’s eyes. In other words, what you show people, day in and day out, is political.”

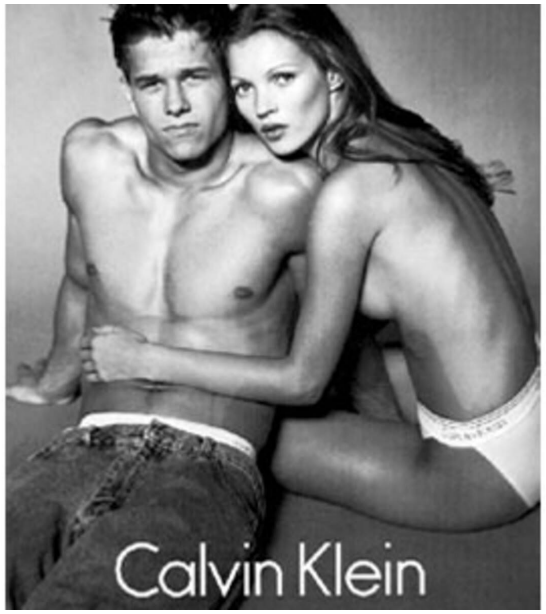
Wim Wenders, The Art of Seeing, Essays and Conversations

Content

- What is political?

“Really nervous.
Especially the shoot with Marky Mark, it was so intimidating."





“I had a nervous breakdown when I was 17 or 18, when I had to go and work with Marky Mark and Herb Ritts,” she has told *Vanity Fair*. “It didn’t feel like me at all. I felt really bad about straddling this buff guy. I didn’t like it. I couldn’t get out of bed for two weeks. I thought I was going to die.

Power of Representation

- Giving Voice to a subject
- Thinking beyond the photo

Martha Rosler claimed that documentary doesn't change anything – it simply transfers information about a "group of powerless people" (the subjects who otherwise wouldn't be photographed) to a much more powerful group (the elite gallery goers or viewers)

The Politics of Representation

