General Exam Reading List: History
Film and Visual Studies, Harvard University
(Revised and Updated, June 2012)

This reading list provides an introductory guide to fundamental texts and films. The selections encompass essential discussions about a range of topics. It is not expected that students will read the entirety of every book that appears below; they are encouraged, however, to use these suggestions in order to gain a comprehensive overview of the history of film and visual studies in preparation for their General Examinations.

Students should also familiarize themselves with about 200-250 films from the additional "Suggested/Suggestive Viewing List," being certain that their choices allow for a comprehensive knowledge of narrative, non-fiction, avant-garde, and animated films as well as videos and video installations.

HISTORIOGRAPHY

HISTORIES OF DISCIPLINES

1 - History of Film Studies

2 - History of Visual Studies
3 - History of Interdisciplinarity

**HISTORIES OF IMAGES**


**HISTORIES OF FILM**

1 - Early Cinema
Mary Ann Doane. *The Emergence of Cinematic Time: Modernity, Contingency, the


2 - Hollywood Cinema


3 - New Waves and Post-New Waves


----------. "Paris Underground: Les 400 Coups." In Cartographic Cinema. Minneapolis:

4 - Films and Nations

5 - World Cinema, Transnational Cinema

6 - Film Genre

7 - Experimental, Avant-Garde, and Underground Film

8 - Documentary and Nonfiction Film

9 - Sex, Race, and Gender

10 - Digital Cinema/Electronic Images

**HISTORIES OF PERCEPTION**


**HISTORIES OF MEDIA**

1 - General


Friedrich Kittler. *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*. Trans. Geoffrey Winthrop-Young and

2 - Phonography

3 - Photography

4 - Television

5 - Video
Benjamin Buchloh. "From Gadget Video to Agit Video: Some Notes on Four Recent Video Works." *Art Journal* 45.3 (Fall 1985).

6 - Networked Media