Metaphor in Science

European University at St. Petersburg, Spring 2015, Tuesdays, 2:10-5:20
STS Program, Department of Political Science and Sociology

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Course requirements 1. Weekly readings; 2) Class participation; 3) Four 1-page written responses to the week’s readings (due on day of discussion); 4) Brief (4-6 page) written discussion of the origins and conceptual significance of a metaphor in a text, a discourse, or an author’s work; 5) Brief (about 15 minute) oral report on that metaphor in class.

February 2 Introduction to course

February 9 Metaphor in daily life

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, *Metaphors We Live By* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980), 3-125, at:
http://www.cabrillo.edu/~ewagner/WOK%20Eng%202/Lakoff%20&%20Johnson%20-%20Metaphors%20We%20Live%20By.pdf

Alexis Madrigal, “Why are Spy Researchers Building a `Metaphor Program’?” *The Atlantic*, May 25, 2011. At:

Dan Juravsky, “Why Drugs are a Metaphor For Some Foods, and Sex is a Metaphor For Others,” *The New Republic*, September 21, 2014
https://newrepublic.com/article/119352/what-language-yelp-reviews-tells-us

February 16 Metaphor in daily life


February 23 Metaphor and Interpretation


March 1 Charles Darwin’s Metaphors as Concepts and Rhetoric (Part I)

Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* [1859], chapters I-IV, XV.


March 8 Charles Darwin’s Metaphors (Part II)

Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man* [1871], chapter XXI


March 15 Bodily Defenses (Part I)


March 22 Bodily Defenses (Part II)


Emily Martin, “Toward an Anthropology of Immunology: The Body as Nation State?” Medical Anthropology Quarterly, new series, vol. 4, no. 4 (December 1990), pp. 410-426

March 29 Reflex and the Mechanical Body

Rene Descartes, Treatise on Man and Passions of the Soul (selections)

Ivan Pavlov, Aleksei Ukhtomskii (short texts)


Eugene Raikhel, “Reflex/ Рефлекс,” Somatosphere: Science, Medicine and Anthropology, February 2014; at http://somatosphere.net/2014/02/reflex%D1%80%D0%B5%D1%84%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BA%D1%81.html


**April 5 Metaphor in psychology**


**April 12 Anthropomorphism and Mechanomorphism**

John Watson, “Psychology as the Behaviorist Views It” (1913) http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Watson/views.htm


April 19 Twentieth Century Biology and Genetics


April 26 Illness as Cultural Metaphor


Barbara Clow, “Who’s Afraid of Susan Sontag? or, the Myths and Metaphors of Cancer Reconsidered,” Social History of Medicine 14, 2 (2001), pp. 293–312

May 3 Reports

May 10 Reports

May 17 Final discussion