

**Paying attention to attention. MSC Fall 2024**  
 Raymond Boisvert, instructor

**Texts:**  
 Matthew B. Crawford - *Shop Class as Soulcraft*  
 Neil Postman - *Amusing Ourselves to Death*

Date	Reading(s)	Themes	Key Issues
9/11	CRAWFORD, Ch. 1	-Progress??  -Artificial Intel. vs embodied Intel.  -Head <u>and</u> hands  — <i>Das Wahre ist das Ganze</i> (i.e. a half-truth is a whole lie)	-Who are we?  -Embodied intelligence account for positions.  --Philosophy is for humans, not for minds. - abstract vs. concrete  -Grandmothers as past and future  -Responsibility  - What is attention
9/18	CRAWFORD, Ch. 4	-Differences  -entanglement  -practice and experience  -stochastic arts  -"conceit of mastery"  -seeking data vs. neutral reception  -"unselfing"  -who benefits the most	-multiplicity as basal  -interplay is good  -book learning  -dependency  -guided attention  -description/evaluation overlap  -The game "Life-
Date	Reading(s)	Themes	Key Issues

<p><b>9/25</b></p>	<p><b>CRAWFORD, Ch. 7</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Luck/achievement/ Meaning overlap</li>   <li>-Prioritization of values</li>   <li>-Can we wall ourselves off from our surroundings?</li>   <li>-Differences and the difference they make</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Knowing that vs knowing how</li>   <li>-What is 'idiotic'</li> </ul>
<p><b>10/02</b></p>	<p><b>POSTMAN, Ch. 1</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-medium and media</li>   <li>-las Vegas</li>   <li>-Abbreviators vs. whole truth</li>   <li>-decline of typography</li>   <li>-book, TV, watch as mind-control devices</li>   <li>-humans as time- servers</li>   <li>-From writing to electronics</li>   <li>-speaking and semiotics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Clock time vs. lived time'</li>   <li>-the functions of amusement</li>   <li>-metaphors and culture</li>   <li>-mind as a computer</li>   <li>-thinking vs efficiency</li>   <li>-what is a "thing"</li>   <li>-consumption vs community</li>   <li>-<i>Res publica</i></li>   <li>- meaning of "good"</li> </ul>
<p><b>Date</b></p>	<p><b>Reading(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Themes</b></p>	<p><b>Key Issues</b></p>

<p><b>10/09</b></p>	<p><b>POSTMAN, Ch. 6</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- interdependencies.</li> <li>-Importance of headwind</li> <li>-</li> <li>Autonomous, rational self reconsidered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--When can we judge? On what basis?</li> <li>--Is the isolated self a fiction?</li> </ul>
<p><b>10/16</b></p>	<p><b>POSTMAN Chs. 8 and 11.</b> <b>( Ch 8)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- religion</li> <li>-attention</li> <li>-God of Bible vs God of television</li> <li>-Huxley's warning</li> <li>-entertainment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-is technology neutral?</li> <li>-a world of cell phones??</li> </ul>