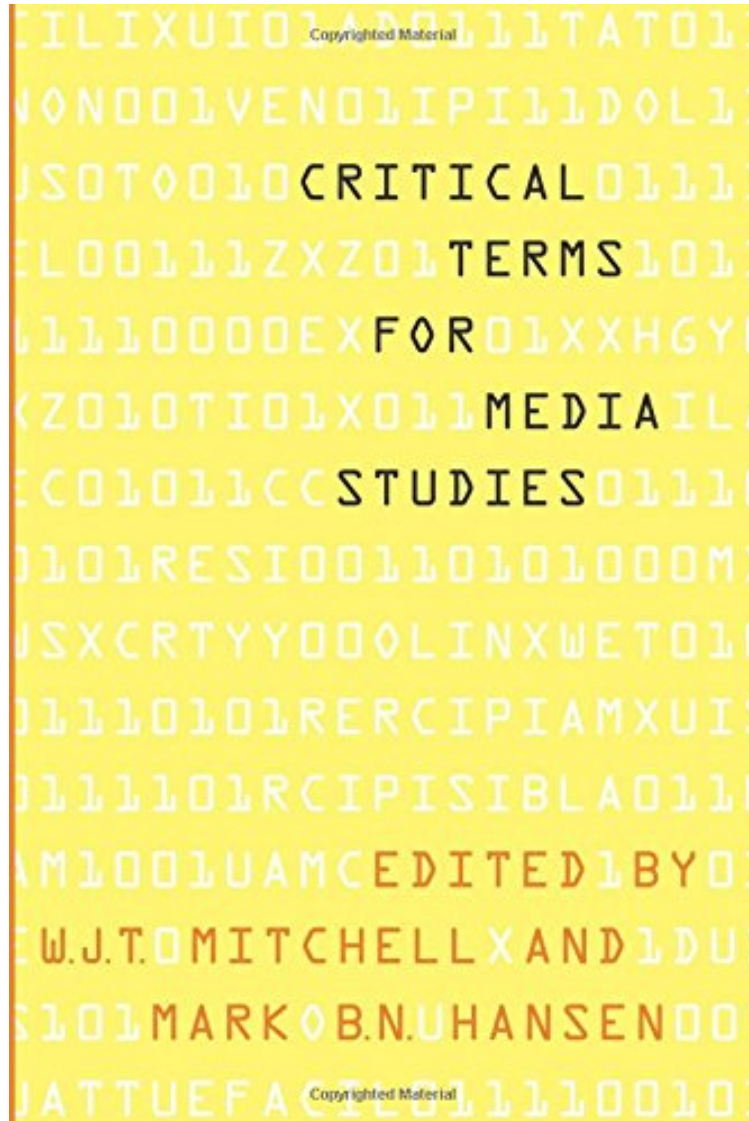


Critical Terms for Media Studies

From W J T Mitchell

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#376081 in Books W J T Mitchell 2010-03-15 2010-03-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.00 x 6.00l, 1.10 #File Name: 0226532550376 pagesCritical Terms For Media Studies | File size: 52.Mb

From W J T Mitchell : Critical Terms for Media Studies before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Critical Terms for Media Studies:

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful pieces with far reaching consequencesBy Hugh JapeThis an interesting book, suitable for students and researchers with a broad range of media interests - whether it be in relation to fine arts, mass communication, or any other area of the field. First, I'll give an indication of what this book is not. It's probably not effective to use this book as an encyclopedia, or as an introduction to media studies. For

that, I suggest trying *New Media: A Critical Introduction* (but maybe wait to see if a paperback version of the 2nd edition is released) or *Media and Cultural Studies: Keyworks* (KeyWorks in Cultural Studies) or *The New Media Reader* if you want a good selection of key works that have influenced the often overlapping fields of media and cultural studies (see moreso the 2nd half of that book for stuff on media). I think people who would most benefit from the book under review are people who have some familiarity with the sorts of ideas that are discussed in these three books. A careful reader with any experience reading from the Humanities should be alright, though. What this book does offer the reader is a careful interrogation of concepts that are crucial to the contemporary vocabulary of media studies. I will not evaluate the individual pieces as I think it's a bit too arduous if I try to do it well, and unfair to the authors if I do a shoddy job. Instead, I'll simply iterate what the terms are and who deals with them.

Section 1:
Aesthetics - Johanna Drucker
Body - Bernadette Wegenstein
Image - WJT Mitchell
Materiality - Bill Brown
Memory - Bernard Stiegler
Senses - Caroline Jones
Time and Space - Mitchell Hansen

Section 2:
Technology - Eugene Thacker
Biomedicine - Bruce Clarke
Communication - Katherine Hayles
Cybernetics - Bruce Clarke
New Media - Mark Hansen
Hardware/Software/Wetware - Geoffrey Winthrop-Young
Technology - John Johnston

Section 3: Society
Exchange - David Graeber
Language - Cary Wolfe
Law - Peter Goodrich
Mass Media - John Durham Peters
Networks - Alexander Galloway
Systems - David Wellbery
Writing - Lydia Liu

I recommend this book for people wanting to keep abreast/ahead of the current debates about the relations between embodiment, technology and society. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Extra Details
By DSObtuse and academic--but useful as a rhetorical reference. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Jimmy Barkahgreat!

Communications, philosophy, film and video, digital culture: media studies straddles an astounding array of fields and disciplines and produces a vocabulary that is in equal parts rigorous and intuitive. *Critical Terms for Media Studies* defines, and at times, redefines, what this new and hybrid area aims to do, illuminating the key concepts behind its liveliest debates and most dynamic topics. Part of a larger conversation that engages culture, technology, and politics, this exciting collection of essays explores our most critical language for dealing with the qualities and modes of contemporary media. Edited by two outstanding scholars in the field, W. J. T. Mitchell and Mark B. N. Hansen, the volume features works by a team of distinguished contributors. These essays, commissioned expressly for this volume, are organized into three interrelated groups: Aesthetics engages with terms that describe sensory experiences and judgments, Technology offers entry into a broad array of technological concepts, and Society opens up language describing the systems that allow a medium to function. A compelling reference work for the twenty-first century and the media that form our experience within it, *Critical Terms for Media Studies* will engage and deepen any readers knowledge of one of our most important new fields.

This volume of articles was far more than merely a reflection on a field of study. It was rather a strong statement about what that field could and should be, and a guide to how it might develop and what forms it might take.