This course will examine ways in which surveillance techniques and technologies interact with society to produce social control, security, fear, vulnerability, and/or empowerment. Starting with an historical perspective on ways in which surveillance was conceived as necessary for social control in the modern state, the course will then examine current surveillance practices along different life points, including childhood and youth, the reproductive years, and the experience of aging in institutions. As part of this, we will explore how surveillance has shaped modern experiences of school, work, travel, socializing, and political participation.

The course will end with an in-depth examination of how social media engagement and leveraging of ‘Big Data’ information is shaping modern identities as individuals, community members, and citizens.

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