



Humanities Institute at Stony Brook

p r e s e n t s

Thursday, April 25, 2013

4:30 p.m.

Humanities 1008

Reception to follow

John Guillory

Monuments and Documents: On the Object of Study in the Humanities

In this talk Professor Guillory reflects upon Erwin's Panofsky's use of the terms monument and document to describe the works of art studied by the art historian or critic, and on the utility of these terms in describing the object of study across humanities disciplines generally. In the seminar which will take place the morning after the talk, he will follow up on some questions raised here and in his essay "Genesis of the Media Concept," specifically the question of literature as a medium. The seminar will draw on texts by Oscar Wilde dealing with the superiority (in his view) of literature to other expressive media.

John Guillory is a Silver Professor in the Department of English at New York University. He earned his BA at Tulane University, and his Ph.D. in English at Yale University. Professor Guillory is the author of *Poetic Authority: Spenser, Milton and Literary History*, *Cultural Capital: The Problem of Literary Canon Formation*, which won the Rene Wellek Award of the American Comparative Literature Association and has remained widely influential, and the co-editor, with Judith Butler and Kendall Thomas, of *What's Left of Theory? New Work on the Politics of Theory*. Three recent essays, "The Memo and Modernity," "Genesis of the Media Concept," and "Enlightening Mediation," have been instrumental in shaping the emerging field loosely named media history or media archaeology.

