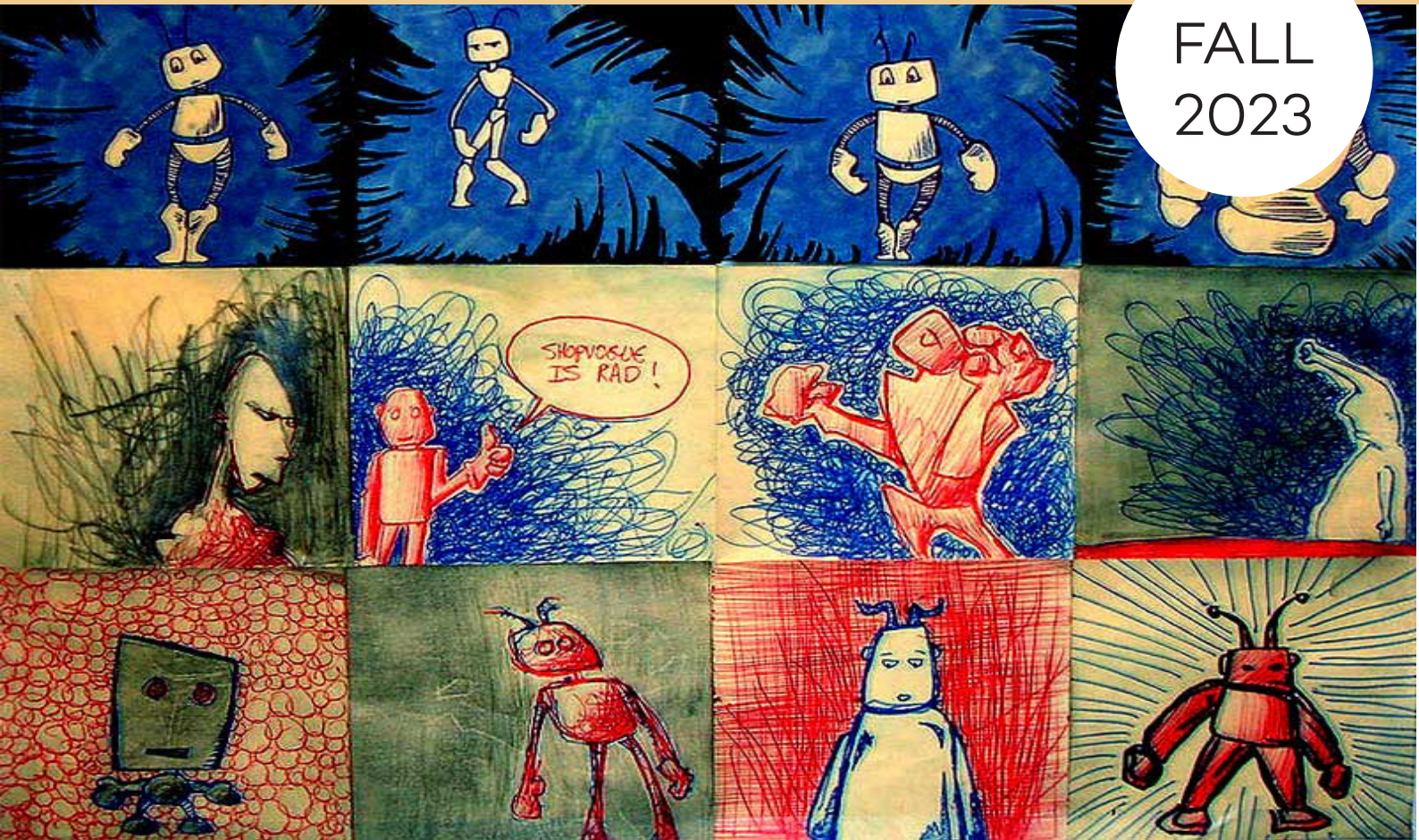


WITCHES, BOTS, AND TROLLS: MISINFORMATION IN SOCIETY

GNDR_ST 390 & ANTHRO 390

FALL
2023



This course surveys the social scientific study of misinformation in society. We will query the past to learn about how misinformation has evolved over time as a sociocultural feature of human societies. We will interrogate the present to examine how misinformation figures in the defining political, social, and economic problems of our time. And we will imagine the implications of misinformation for the future and explore our agency in shaping that future. We will draw on case studies, documentaries, and anthropological and social scientific literature on rumor and gossip, conspiracy theories, post-truth politics, deradicalization, and social media to explore topics and concepts such as “fake news,” digital populism, algorithmic bias, weaponized disinformation, the “infodemic,” deep fakes, and more. Case studies may include COVID-19, election, and climate change denialism; political conspiracy theories from the French Revolution to QAnon; troll farms and other tactics of information warfare; and the role of misinformation in current controversies over sexual & racial politics.

Annie Wilkinson

TTh 12:30-1:50pm
Anthro Seminar Room 104