INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY & EMERGING MEDIA
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course offers a comprehensive overview of the possibilities of communication in a digital world. Through a series of readings, lectures and assignments, students study the rhetoric, theory, and practice of digital technology and media. This course takes a specific interest in understanding the constant evolution of digital media technologies and investigates the emergence of older forms of “new” media—from the original internet to big data, from graphical user interfaces to social media platforms. As we do so, we will focus on how our daily relationships with digital media technologies shape individual identities, connections between people, access to knowledge, geographical orientations, and distributions of power. Class discussions and projects encourage students to connect their lived experiences with relevant social research and current events.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will have the opportunity to...
- Develop an appreciation for, and demonstrate understanding through, oral and written discussion of key concepts and current issues relevant to digital technology and emerging media.
- Historicize media technologies commonly considered “new” media.
- Understand contemporary debates over changes in identity, education, work and play associated with the emergence of digital media and technology.
- Develop and demonstrate competency in analyzing social, economic, and technical issues associated with the internet and mobile communication technologies.

ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION

PARTICIPATION 15% of final grade
Each student’s class participation will be assessed based upon their contributions to in-class and online discussions. Participation is not based on mastery of course content but rather meaningful and consistent engagement in group discussions.

MEDIA SUPPLEMENT 5% of final grade
Each student will contribute a 5min media supplement to one class over the semester. Supplements will be preceded by a brief 1min introduction that explains the connection between the chosen supplement and the day’s readings.

THREE READING SUMMARIES 30% of final grade
Each student will complete three 500-700 word reading summaries. Each summary should distill the key concepts and theories of its designated set of course readings (see course schedule for due dates). More detailed directions for each summary will be discussed in class and posted to BlackBoard.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY 20% of final grade
Each student will be expected to compose an autobiographical account of how they experience and understand their digital surroundings. Autobiographies should be ~700 words in length and use a personal narrative to discuss how an instance of digital technology or emerging media shaped one’s daily geography, history, and communication. The written statement will be accompanied by a 5min multimedia presentation that will be delivered in class. More detailed directions for this project will be discussed in class and posted to BlackBoard.

MIDTERM & FINAL EXAMS 30% of final grade
There will be a midterm and final exam covering the assigned readings, discussions, and lectures (Midterm covers 9/7-8/5; Final covers 10/17-12/05). Each exam will consist of fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions.
FIRST CLASS  AN INTRO TO DTEM  
WEDNESDAY, AUG 31

WEEK 1  CONCEPTUALIZING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY & MEDIA  
WEDNESDAY, SEP 07

WEEK 2  
MONDAY, SEP 12

WEDNESDAY, SEP 14

WEEK 3  TIME, SPACE, & THE NEW INTERFACE  
MONDAY, SEP 19
   ❖ DUE: First Reading Summary

WEDNESDAY, SEP 21

WEEK 4  SOCIAL & MATERIAL INFRASTRUCTURES  
MONDAY, SEP 26

WEDNESDAY, SEP 28

WEEK 5  
MONDAY, OCT 3
DTEM 1401 (FALL 2016)

WEDNESDAY, OCT 5 - MIDTERM REVIEW

WEEK 6 ■ MIDTERM EXAM
(MONDAY, OCT 10 — NO CLASS)

WEDNESDAY, OCT 12 - MIDTERM
❖ DUE: Second Reading Summary

WEEK 7 ■ THE INFORMATIONAL & THE INTIMATE
MONDAY, OCT 17

WEDNESDAY, OCT 19

WEEK 8 ■
MONDAY, OCT 24

WEDNESDAY, OCT 26

WEEK 9 ■ ENVIRONMENTAL AUTOBIOGRAPHIES
MONDAY, OCT 31
❖ DUE: Environmental Autobiography In-Class Presentation

WEDNESDAY, NOV 2
• In-Class Presentations, Continued.

WEEK 10 ■ DIGITAL PRODUCTION & REPRODUCTION
MONDAY, NOV 7
❖ DUE: Environmental Autobiography (Written Portion)
DTEM 1401 (FALL 2016)

WEDNESDAY, NOV 9

WEEK 11
MONDAY, NOV 14

WEDNESDAY, NOV 16

WEEK 12 DIGITAL ACCESS & LITERACY
MONDAY, NOV 21

(WEDNESDAY, NOV 23 - NO CLASS)

WEEK 13
MONDAY, NOV 28

WEDNESDAY, NOV 30

WEEK 14
MONDAY, DEC 5
   • DUE: Third Reading Summary

WEDNESDAY, DEC 7
• Final Exam Review In-Class

FINAL EXAM
WEDNESDAY, DEC 21 @ 1:30PM