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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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

■ FIRST CLASS ■ AN INTRO TO DTEM

WEDNESDAY, AUG 31

■ WEEK 1 ■ CONCEPTUALIZING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY & MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, SEP 07

1. Edison, Thomas A. 1878. "The Phonograph and Its Future." *The North American Review* 126, no. 262: 527-36.
2. Manovich, Lev. 2001. "What is New Media?" In The Language of New Media. MIT press. 18-26.

■ WEEK 2 ■

MONDAY, SEP 12

3. Castells, Manuel. 2001. "Lessons from the History of the Internet" in The Internet Galaxy: Reflections on the Internet, Business, and Society. Oxford University Press.
4. Berners-Lee, Tim. "The Web at 25." *Wired*, August 2014.

WEDNESDAY, SEP 14

5. Tufekci, Zeynep. "Is the Internet Good or Bad? Yes." *Medium*, February 2012.
6. Athique, Adrian. 2013. "The Socio-technical Interface" in Digital Media and Society: An Introduction. Polity Press.

■ WEEK 3 ■ TIME, SPACE, & THE NEW INTERFACE

MONDAY, SEP 19

1. Sassen, Saskia. 2000. "Agglomeration in the Digital Era?" in Cities in a World Economy.
2. Rose, Frank. "Augmented Urban Reality." *The New Yorker*. July 2016

❖ DUE: First Reading Summary

WEDNESDAY, SEP 21

3. Harvey, David. 1990. "Time and Space in the Postmodern Cinema." In The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change, 308-23. Blackwell Publishing.

■ WEEK 4 ■ SOCIAL & MATERIAL INFRASTRUCTURES

MONDAY, SEP 26

1. Meyrowitz, Joshua. 1985. "Media, Situations, Behavior." In No Sense of Place: The Impact of Electronic Media on Social Behavior. New York: Oxford University Press.

WEDNESDAY, SEP 28

2. Mueller, Milton. 2002. "The New Regime." In Ruling the Root: Internet Governance and the Taming of Cyberspace, 185-210. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.

■ WEEK 5 ■

MONDAY, OCT 3

3. Starosielski, Nicole. 2015. "Introduction: Against Flow" in The Undersea Network. Duke University. 1-26.
4. "Where the Internet Lives" *The Atlantic*.

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WEDNESDAY, OCT 5 - MIDTERM REVIEW

5. Castells, Manuel, Mireia Fernández-Ardèvol, Jack Linchuan Qiu, and Araba Sey. 2009. "Wireless Communication and Global Development: New Issues, New Strategies." In Mobile Communication and Society, 171-178. MIT Press.

■ 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

1. Haraway, Donna. 1985. "The Cyborg Manifesto and Fractured Identities." *Socialist Review* 80: 65-108.
2. Cox, Susan. 2014. "Facebook has totally reinvented identity: Why it's even worse than you think." *Salon*.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 19

3. Stone, Allucquere Rosanne. 1991. "Will the Real Body Please Stand Up?" In Cyberspace: First Steps, 81-118. MIT Press.
4. Schuurman, Nadine. 2012. "Databases and Bodies: A Cyborg Update." *Environment and Planning A* 36, no. 8: 1337-40.

■ WEEK 8 ■

MONDAY, OCT 24

5. Gilliom, John, and Torin Monahan. 2013. "My Cell, My Self." In SuperVision: An Introduction to the Surveillance Society. University Of Chicago Press.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 26

6. Marwick, Alice, and danah boyd. 2014. "Networked privacy: How teenagers negotiate context in social media." *New Media & Society* 16(7): 1051-1067.

■ 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

1. Indergaard, Michael. 2004. "Making and Selling a New Media District." In Silicon Alley: The Rise and Fall of a New Media District, 23-50. New York: Routledge.

❖ DUE: Environmental Autobiography (Written Portion)

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WEDNESDAY, NOV 9

2. Gillespie, Tarleton. 2012. "The Relevance of Algorithms" in Media Technologies. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 167-193

■ WEEK 11 ■

MONDAY, NOV 14

3. Nakamura, Lisa. 2009. "Don't Hate the Player, Hate the Game: The Racialization of Labor in World of Warcraft." Critical Studies in Media Communication 26, no. 2: 128-44.

WEDNESDAY, NOV 16

4. Balsamo, Anne. 2011. "Gendering the Technological Imagination" in Designing Culture: The Technological Imagination at Work. Duke University Press.

■ WEEK 12 ■ DIGITAL ACCESS & LITERACY

MONDAY, NOV 21

1. Mossberger, Karen, Caroline J. Tolbert, and Ramona S. McNeal. 2007. "Defining Digital Citizenship" in Digital Citizenship The Internet, Society, and Participation. MIT Press.

(WEDNESDAY, NOV 23 - NO CLASS)

■ WEEK 13 ■

MONDAY, NOV 28

2. Davidson, Cathy. 2011. "Part 1: Distraction and Difference" in Now You See It: How Technology and Brain Science Will Transform Schools and Business for the 21st Century. Penguin.

WEDNESDAY, NOV 30

3. Donovan, Gregory T., and Cindi Katz. 2009. "Cookie Monsters: Seeing Young People's Hacking as Creative Practice." Children, Youth and Environments 19, no. 1: 197-222.

■ WEEK 14 ■

MONDAY, DEC 5

4. Ito, Mimi, H. Horst, M. Bittanti, d. boyd, B. Herr-Stephenson, P.G. Lange, CJ Pascoe, and L. Robinson. 2008. "Executive Summary" and "Genres of Participation with New Media." in Living and Learning with New Media: Summary of Findings from the Digital Youth Project. (READ PAGES 1-3, AND 13-34).

❖ DUE: Third Reading Summary

WEDNESDAY, DEC 7

❖ Final Exam Review In-Class

■■ FINAL EXAM ■■

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