IRLS 417/517 Digital Cultures

Updated Mon, 01/10/2011 - 07:46

COURSE NAME, NUMBER AND PREREQUISITES:

Digital Cultures

Instructor: Kay Mathiesen

Teaching Assistant: Laura Lenhart

IRLS 417/517

This course is open to both Graduate and Undergraduate Students. There are no course prerequisites.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We live in a digital culture. Digital content has become essential to our personal, professional, economic, and political interactions—we interact with others via e-mail, text messaging, and social networking sites; we shop and do our jobs over the internet; we learn about politics from surfing the web or voice our opinions by commenting on posts or blogging. The digital technologies that enable these activities provide us with new opportunities, but also shape our experiences in ways that we might not be aware of. New digital information technologies such as the internet, databases, and computer surveillance provide new challenges to our understanding of such things as personal identity, friendship, privacy, authority, and authorship.

In this course, we will explore how digital information technologies—shape our lives and our cultures. We will explore the benefits and the possible dangers of new and emerging digital information technologies. We will approach these and other issues from a multidisciplinary perspective, looking at the insights into our information age that can be provided by such areas of inquiry as history, linguistics, sociology, political theory, information science, and philosophy.

The course will not only critically analyze new digital information technologies, it will use such technologies to deliver the course—providing opportunities for active reflection on the ways in which digital technologies shape learning and social interaction.

Sample Topics Covered:

• Intellectual Property and the Open Source Movement

• Surveillance and Privacy

• Information Technology, Democracy, and Regulation
• The Web as a force for Localization and Globalization
• Speech and the Internet
• Expertise in a digital age

A schedule with topics, readings, and assignment due dates will be available the first day of the semester.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The goal of the course is to equip students with the conceptual tools to understand, engage, and critique the evolving set of digital cultures in which we live.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Texts:


These books are not available at the UA Bookstore. Instead, they are available much more cheaply from a number of online retailers or even booksellers like Barnes and Noble. During the first week or two, readings will be available through D2L in order to allow students time to acquire the texts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Weekly reflections and discussion—Students will select an issue from one of the readings and write a 1-2 paragraph reflection on this issue. The reflection should illustrate a claim in the reading with a real world example, raise an objection to a claim in the reading, relate the issues in one reading to another, etc. These reflections will be posted to the appropriate discussion forum. Discussions will include posting of the weekly reflections as a prompt for class discussion. Note that in order to get full credit for participation, you must read your fellow student’s reflections and post at least one comment. In addition, there will be discussions on particular topics as assigned by the instructor.

Short Assignments—Students will complete 4 short papers. They will use and reflect on various information media and websites, e.g SecondLife, Google, Wikipedia, Facebook, Youtube, etc., respond to essay prompts, or write on a topic of
their own choosing (students who wish to write on a topic of their own choosing, must get prior approval from the instructor) These papers may be resubmitted as many times as possible in response to the instructor's feedback.

Exams—There will be a mid-term and final. Exams will be essay and short answer. They will be open book and open notes.

Graduate Student Paper—In addition to the other assignments, graduate students will write a 10-15 page research paper on some aspect of digital cult and its impact on the 21st Century Information Professions. Paper topic must be approved by the instructor and may be an elaboration on one of the short papers.

COURSE, SCHOOL, AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Code of Integrity

Students are expected to abide by The University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity. 'The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student's submitted work must be the student's own.' If you have any questions regarding what is acceptable practice under this Code, please ask an Instructor.

Accommodating Disabilities

The University has a Disability Resource Center. If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the Disability Resource Center and request that the DRC send me, the Instructor, official notification of your accommodation needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Incompletes

The 1997-8 University of Arizona General Academic Manual, p.23 reads

The grade of I may be awarded only at the end of a semester, when all but a minor portion of the course work has been satisfactorily completed. The grade of I is not to be awarded when the student is expected to repeat the course; in such a case the grade of E must be assigned. Students should make arrangements with the instructor to receive an incomplete grade before the end of the semester ...

If the incomplete is not removed by the instructor within one year the I grade will revert to a failing grade.

GRADING:

Undergraduate

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IRLS 417/517 Digital Cultures | School of Information Resources and Libr... http://tech.sbs.arizona.edu/node/325
### Weekly Reflections and Discussion

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<td>Weekly Reflections and Discussion</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Short Papers</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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### Graduate

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<td>Weekly Reflections and Discussion</td>
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<td>Short Papers</td>
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<td>Final</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
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### INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT ADDRESSES:

Kay Mathiesen

SIRLS, Room 6
Phone (520) 621-5219
kmathies at email dot arizona dot edu
Courses

- Syllabi
  - Fall 11
  - Summer 2011
  - Spring 11
    - IRLS 417/517 Digital Cultures
    - IRLS472-010 Government Information ~ Spring 2011
    - IRLS515-001 Organization of Information (On Campus Frické)
    - IRLS515-011 Organization of Information (Virtual, Frické)
    - IRLS517/417 Digital Cultures
    - IRLS520-010 Ethics for Library and Information Professionals (Virtual Fallis)
    - IRLS520-011 Ethics for Library and Information Professionals (On Campus Mathiesen)
    - IRLS523-010 Early Childhood and Public Libraries (Virtual SHiggins)
    - IRLS532-010 Online Searching
    - IRLS540 - Introduction to Archives
    - IRLS551-001 Equity of Access (Virtual -Montiel Overall)
    - IRLS554-010 DIVERSE CULTURES, COMMUNITIES, AND LIBRARIES
    - IRLS557-010 Documenting Diverse cultures and Communities
    - IRLS559 Marketing Library and Information Services to Communities
    - IRLS562-010 Public Libraries Practice & Administration
    - IRLS571-010 Introduction to Information Technology, Spring 2011, (Dr. Sun)
    - IRLS572-010 Government Information ~ Spring 2011
    - IRLS573-010 Information Technology in Libraries (Virtual, Smith)
    - IRLS581-010 School Library Administration and Organization (Virtual SHiggins)
    - IRLS585 Information Literacy Instruction (Spring 2011)
    - IRLS589 Scholarly Communication
    - IRLS613-010 Decision Making for Library and Information Professionals
    - IRLS673 Managing the Digital Information Environment
    - IRLS674 Preservation of Digital Collections
    - IRLS696b-001 ISSUES & WRITING SEMINAR: Advanced Research Methods & Statistics (By Heshan Sun)
  - Fall 10
  - Summer 10
  - Winter 10-11
  - Spring 10
  - Winter 09 10
  - Fall 09
  - Summer 09
  - Spring 09
  - Winter 08 09
  - Fall 08
  - Archive of Old Syllabi

- Schedules
  - Core Courses
  - Course Delivery Options
  - Course Descriptions
  - Distributed Electives

Archive of Old Syllabi
Individual Studies: Internships, Independent Studies & Practica

Registration

Required first course: IRLS504

Suggested Courses by Specialization

Suggested Out of Department Courses

Workload

Guided exploration

Click a term to initiate a search.

Audience

for Students (92)
for Faculty (28)
for Alums (24)
for Staff (17)
for Prospective Students (7)
more...

Course

IRLS417 (2)
IRLS418 (1)
IRLS432 (1)
IRLS470 (2)
IRLS488 (6)
more...

People

Adjunct Faculty (152)
Faculty (150)
Staff (17)
Friends (6)

Semester

Fall 11 (29)
Summer 11 (27)
Spring 11 (30)
Winter 10 11 (1)
Fall 10 (20)
more...

Task

Choosing Courses (27)
Advising (5)
Applying (5)
Registering (2)
Submitting Final Paperwork (2)
more...

Topic

Index (33)
Masters (33)
Research (20)
Knowledge River (16)
News (14)
Related categories

Course: IRLS417
People: Faculty » Mathiesen
Semester: Spring 11

Guided keyword