ATEC 2322: Intro to Electronic and Digital Communication
Fall 2013

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

Course Information

Meets: M,W 11:30-12:45
Location: ATC 3.205
Credit Hours: 3
Twitter Hashtag: #ATEC2322

Contact Information

Instructor: Tameka Reeves
Email: tameka.reeves@utd.edu
Office: TBD
Office Hours: W 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, also by appointment

Contact policies:

- I try to respond to email M-F within 24 hours.

- If I do not respond within that time frame, check my email address and re-send it.

- Use official UTD email only.

- I will not respond to the following:
    - Emails that request information found on syllabus or assignment sheets.
    - Twitter direct messages.

Course Description

The way that we experience media has changed. In the not so distant past, our role in the media equation was a passive one, that of consumer. A quick stroll through just a tiny corner of the contemporary participatory media landscape - Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Wikipedia, the comments section of any online publication - quickly reveals that our role has evolved to a dual one of consumer/producer. But how and why (and when) did this change come about? Moreover, what does it mean for social structures built upon the old system of doing things? The one where we just listened but didn't participate? The focus of this class is to interrogate the destabilization of existing social structures that takes place when analog media are replaced with digital ones.

Student Learning Goals

- Become familiar with digital media and how they operate.

- Analyze the impact of digital media developments on social structures.

- Understand the larger issues and debates shaping the transformation of the media

landscape.

- Engage in the collaborative production of knowledge while developing collaborative learning skills.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Culture and Technology: A Primer
Jennifer Daryl Slack, J. Macgregor Wise
ISBN 978-0-8204-5007-0

The Social Media Reader
Michael Mandiberg
ISBN 0814764061
Available online at http://archive.org/details/TheSocialMediaReader

Blown to Bits: Your Life, Liberty, and Happiness After the Digital Explosion
Hal Abelson, Ken Leeden, Harry Lewis
ISBN 0137135599
Availiable online at http://www.bitsbook.com/excerpts/

The Future of the Internet (and How to Stop It)
Jonathan Zittrain
ISBN: 0300151241
Available online at http://futureoftheinternet.org/

Various online readings

You will also need the following: a UTD email account that is checked frequently, a public Twitter account, an account on our course wiki.

Assignments

Given this class's focus on collaborative learning, it might seem somewhat awkward to evaluate people with individual grades. Nevertheless, you will receive a grade for the course. Some of the grade will be based on work you individually produce, while some of it will be an evaluation of collaborative effort.

Participation (20%): This is a crucial part of class. Students are expected to come to class on time, prepared, having completed the assigned reading and writing, and ready to contribute their thoughts to class discussions, to listen seriously and respectfully to the thoughts of others, and to participate in all in-class activities. I strongly urge you to attend every class, as most of the work done in class is necessary for successful completion of the course. Participation includes attendance, homework activities, reading quizzes, in class activities, and participation in discussion, both in class and online (twitter, etc.) Expect to spend 3 hours a week in class and approximately 3-4 hours a week doing reading for the class.

Class Knowledgebase (25%): To reflect the collaborative nature of this class a significant portion of the class will be spent building a class wiki that will serve as a collective resource for in class exams. Throughout the course we will be focusing on a range of issues (technodeterminism, privacy, identity, copyright, etc.) and will develop a wiki that attempts to explain, summarize, and engage these issues. Student groups will be assigned rotating roles to produce and edit topical wiki pages for the class wiki. These pages will ultimately function as an open notes study guide for the in class exams. Each student will be required to contribute to the note taking process, the synthesis process, and the editing and polishing process. (Expect to spend 1-2 hours each week on this.)

In Class Exam 1 (20%): An in class exam that draws upon the knowledgebase constructed in units 1 and 2. More information on this after the second week of class.

In Class Exam 2 (20%): An in class exam taken during finals week that draws upon the knowledgebase for units 3 and 4. More information on this after the midpoint of class.

Individual Presentations (15%): Students will have the chance to teach their peers in the final weeks of class. The required presentation format will be the "Ignite" presentation style. Presentation topics should be chosen to expand upon existing course themes or to add new topics to EMAC 2322. More on this after the fourth week of class.

Grading Scale

94% - 100% = A
90% - 93% = A-
87 – 89% = B+
83 – 86% = B
80 – 82% = B-
77 – 79% = C+
73 – 76% = C
70 – 72% = C-
67 – 69% = D+
63 – 66% = D
60 – 62 = D-
59% and below = F

Course Policies

Attendance
Some of the most valuable take-away from this course will come out of our class discussions. Because your presence in class is important, more than three absences will affect your grade and in most cases, five or more absences will result in a failing grade. If you need to miss class for religious reasons, please speak to me ahead of time. Absences for religious purposes do not count against the permitted number (as long as prior notification is given). Lateness is also unacceptable; if you arrive more than 30 minutes late, you will be marked as absent. Leaving

more than 30 minutes early also counts as an absence. In addition, please try to be as fully present and engaged as possible – silence cell phones, don't send or receive texts or emails, etc. Excessive distraction may be counted as an absence.

Accommodation
If you have a disability that requires accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act -2008(ADAAA), please present your letter of accommodations from the Office of Student AccessAbility and meet with me as soon as possible so that I can support your success in an informed manner. If you would like to know more about the University of Texas at Dallas, Office of Student AccessAbility, please contact the office at 972-883-6104 or email: studentaccessability@utdallas.edu. Their office is located in the Student Service Building (SSB), suite 3.200.

Online Etiquette
Many of the assignments throughout the semester will require participation in online spaces. Students should work to preserve the same atmosphere of respect and consideration that occurs in the classroom. Disagreements may arise and consensus is not always possible (indeed disagreements are productive). However, name calling, harassing, flaming, trolling etc., is antithetical to the goals of this course and will not be tolerated. Violations of the student code of conduct will be reported to university administration.

Online Due Dates
All online assignments are due by 11:59pm on the date listed, unless otherwise noted.

Late work
Work associated with participation, in class exams, or the knowledgebase will not be accepted late. You may not make up missed reading quizzes or in-class exams. For each component of the individual presentationthat is late, you will lose 1/3 of a letter grade on the project. The presentation and discussion component of the Teaching Presentation may not be late.

A Note on Technology
As much as technology makes life easier, at times it can also be difficult (computer crashes, deleted work, unavailable internet connections, etc). Plan accordingly: "the computer ate my homework" or "the internet was down" are not reasons to forgo doing the assigned work. It is in your best interest to leave extra time, especially at first, to ensure that technology does not get in the way of your work.

Academic Honesty
From the UT-D Handbook of Operating Procedures: "The university expects from its students a high level of responsibility with respect to academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends on the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student maintain a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. The dean may initiate disciplinary proceedings under subchapter C against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty upon complaint by a faculty member or

a student." (http://www.utdallas.edu/dept/graddean/gsPolDishonesty.htm)

Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on the plagiarized assignment and possible disciplinary action by the university. If you have any questions regarding the proper use of outside sources or the distinction between sampling and plagiarism, I encourage you to meet with me.

University Policies
All of the standard university policies covering the classroom apply to this class. Please visit http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for the University's policies regarding all courses.

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