

**Carleton University  
Winter 2016  
Department of English**

**DH2002A / ENGL2401A: Digital Humanities: Theory and Method**

*Prerequisite(s): ENGL 2400 and second-year standing*

**W/F 11.35-12.55**

Location: 3269 ME – *Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

**Professor Sarah Brouillette**

Office 1904DT

Office hours: 1.30-2.30 or by appointment

Email: sarah\_brouillette@carleton.ca

This class will feature critical discussion and debate about the social and political ramifications of digital culture, including smartphones, Twitter, Google, e-books, and selfies. We will explore all these facets of digital culture in a hands on way, and develop approaches to them that are neither cynical and dystopian nor blindly affirmative.

Texts: none to purchase; all the texts will be available online through cuLearn, ARES, or the internet.

**Evaluation:**

Participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Essay / Project #1	25%
Essay / Project #2	25%
Final exam (3 hrs)	30%

**If you take this class, you must:**

1. Attend all classes, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class.
2. Read the material assigned for the day, have it with you in class, and be prepared to discuss it thoughtfully.
3. Take notes during lectures and discussions (the exam will be based on these).
4. Hand in assignments in class on the due date or lose 1% per working day (of the course total 100%), and receive little or no written commentary. Bring late assignments to the English department drop box on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of Dunton Tower.
5. Ask for extensions at least four days before the due date, but keep in mind that being busy with other work is poor grounds for an extension.

## **Plagiarism:**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved by me directly. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course. For more information please go to: <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>

## **Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide above.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

## SCHEDULE

### 01.06: Introductions

### 01.08: Introduction to Digital Culture and Critical Digital Studies

- read Ted Striphas, "The Political Economy of Commodity Codes"
- read George Packer, "Cheap Words"

### 01.13: Cyber-utopianism and techno-fetishism

- watch Fred Turner, "From Counterculture to Cyberculture"
- read Wendy Chun, "Scenes of Empowerment"

### 01.15: Cyber-utopianism and techno-fetishism

- read Evgeny Morozov, "Iran: Downside to the 'Twitter Revolution'"
- read "Evgeny vs the internet"
- watch "Cyber realism versus Cyber-utopians"

### 01.20: Race, class, and access

- Lisa Nakamura, "Digital Racial Formations and Networked Images of the Body," from *Digitizing Race*
- Lisa Nakamura, "The Social Optics of Race and Networked Interfaces in The Matrix Trilogy and Minority Report," from *Digitizing Race*

### 01.22: Race, class, and access

- read Lisa Nakamura, "The Racialization of Labor in World of Warcraft"
- guest appearance by Adrien Robertson

### 01.27: Hackers

- read two sections from Gabriella Coleman, *Coding Freedom: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Hacking* (Introduction and Chapter 2)
- read two sections from Steven Levy, *Hackers* ("The Hacker Ethic" and "Appendix C: Afterword 2010")

### 01.29: Digital Selves

- read Manuel Castells, "The Net and the Self"
- read Hari Kunzru, "You are Cyborg"

### 02.03: Inside the Factories

- read Nick Dyer-Witheford, "Mobile"
- watch history of iPhone ads
- watch video about Foxconn

### 02.05: Inside the Factories

- watch "The Story of Electronics"
- read "The poetry and brief life of a Foxconn worker: Xu Lizhi (1990-2014)"
- guest appearance by Adam Benn

#### 02.10: Twitter

- spend some time on twitter!
- read “The Real History of Twitter”
- read Nick Bilton, “All is Fair in Love and Twitter”

#### 02.12: Instagram

- watch “I Forgot My Phone”
- read Meryl Alper, “War on Instagram”

#### 02.24: Facebook

- watch “Generation Like”
- read Soraya Mehdizadeh, “Self-Presentation 2.0: Narcissism and Self-Esteem on Facebook”

#### 02.26: Google

- read Imre Szeman, “‘Do No Evil’: Google and Evil as a Political Category”
- read Siva Vaidhyanathan, “The Googlization of Knowledge: The Future of Books”

#### 03.02: Work

- read Andrew Ross, “In Search of the Lost Paycheck”
- read Tiziana Terranova, “Free Labor: Producing Culture for the Digital Economy”

#### 03.04: Work

- read Abigail De Kosnik, “Fandom as Free Labor”
- read Lilly Irani, “The Cultural Work of Microwork”

#### 03.09: Gaming

- read Nick Dyer-Witheford & Greig de Peuter, “Empire@Play: Virtual Games and Global Capitalism”
- guest appearance TBA

#### 03.11: Gaming (Gamergate)

- read Sarah Nyberg, “I’m Sarah Nyberg, and I Was a Teenage Edgelord”
- read Max Read, “How We Got Rolled by the Dishonest Fascists of Gamergate”

#### 03.16: Big data and surveillance

- readings from Frank Pasquale, *The Black Box Society*
- read Evgeny Morozov, “Why the KGB wants you to join Facebook”

#### 03.18: No Class

#### 03.23: The quantified self

- read Daron Acemoglu, “The Basic Theory of Human Capital”
- readings from Wendy Brown, *Undoing the Demos*

#### 03.30: The quantified self

- read Whitney Erin Boesel, “Data Occupations”
- read Moira Weigel, “Fitted”

#### 04.01: The Selfie

- read Alice Marwick, “#Instafame: Luxury Selfies in the Attention Economy”
- read Rob Horning, “Selfies without the Self”
- look at <http://yourselfieideaisnotoriginal.tumblr.com/>

#### 04.06: The Selfie + final exam prep

- read Jenna Brager, “Selfie Control”
- read Anne Burns, “Selfie-Correction”