

SOCI 3210B/DIGH 3700

Sociology of our Digital World

Instructor	Suzanne Kennedy
Term	Fall 2026
Course Delivery	in-person
Email Address	suzannekennedy@cunet.carleton.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ready to see the digital world through a sociological lens? Dive into the digital revolution reshaping our social landscape as we crack open the black box of digital technologies to reveal how they are transforming everything from identities and social relationships to institutions and global power structures.

We will investigate how the digital technologies you use daily are not just tools—they are powerful social forces rewiring society itself. From TikTok trends to surveillance capitalism, we will decode how digital technologies amplify existing inequalities while creating entirely new social realities.

During the first half of the course, you will build your digital sociological toolkit. In the second half, you will put your toolkit to work by using case studies to develop a learning portfolio through which you will analyze real-world digital phenomena through lenses such as power, race, class, gender, and identity.

Leave behind surface-level tech talk and develop the critical skills to understand how the digital is reshaping our social world, and who benefits from these transformations. Perfect for future researchers, policy makers, or anyone who wants to see beyond the screen.

Warning: May permanently change how you view your smartphone.

EVALUATION

Students will complete a variety of individual and group activities as well as develop a learning portfolio to apply and demonstrate their learning.

TEXT

All required readings will be made available by the course instructor. There is no textbook required for this course.