

Wilfrid Laurier University  
Waterloo, ON  
Communication Studies  
Internet Studies  
CS400fA

Day: Wednesday  
Time: 11:30am - 2:20pm  
Room: Alvin Woods 3-103

Instructor: Jeremy Hunsinger  
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im:jhunsinger@mac.com  
Office: 2-119b  
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3pm and by appointment

#### Calendar Description

This course examines the history, technologies, and cultures that lead to the contemporary internet and its uses. Specifically, we will engage the controversies surrounding information sharing such as the commons, piracy and privacy, controversies around security, such as cracking and social engineering, and controversies about design and internet usage, such as internet protocols, network design, and their social implications.

#### Specific Course Description

Building on controversies mentioned above, this course starts will attempt to help you re-imagine the internet, coming to know and understand it as the location of a plurality of individuals and communities; and of technical infrastructures and communications infrastructures. Each of these conceptual constructs represents endless possibilities for human action and communication, corporate action and communication, and also for machinic action and communication.

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#### Readings:

##### Required texts:

Personal Connections in the Digital Age Nancy Baym  
Imagining the Internet Robin Mansell

##### Recommended texts:

Always Already New: Lisa Gitelman  
Always On: Language in and Online and Mobile  
World: Naomi Baron  
Blogging: Jill Walker Rettburg  
Blog Theory: Jodi Dean  
The Breakup 2.0: Ilana Gershon  
Convergence Culture: Henry Jenkins  
Copyrights and Copywrongs: Siva Vaidyanathan

Critical Perspectives on the Internet: Greg Elmer  
et. al.

Cyberprotest: Jenny Pickerill  
Cyberfeminism 2.0: Radhika Gajjala  
Cybertext: Espen Aarseth  
Designing Culture: Anne Balsamo  
Digital Media and Democracy: Megan Boler  
Digital Media Ethics: Charles Ess

The Digital Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Philip Howard

Digitizing Race: Lisa Nakamura

Divining a Digital Future: Paul Dourish

The Exploit: Alexander Galloway and Eugene Thacker

Free Culture: Lawrence Lessig

Future Active: Media Activism and the Internet: Graham Meikle

The Future of the Internet: Jonathan Zittrain

Games of Empire: Nick Dyer-Witherford and Greg de Peuter

Gamer Theory: Mackenzie Wark

Good Faith Collaboration: The Culture of Wikipedia: Joseph Reagle

The Googlization of Everything: Siva Vaidhyanathan

Governing Global Electronic Networks: William Drake

Hypertext 3.0: Critical Theory and New Media: George P. Landow

Life on the Screen: Sherry Turkle

Hanging out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out: Mizuko Ito, et. al.

How to Think about Information: Dan Schiller

The Information Bomb: Paul Virilio

The Informational City: Manuel Castells

The Information Society: Armand Mattelart

The Information Society: Cyber Dreams and Digital Nightmares: Robert Hassan

International Handbook of Internet Research: Jeremy Hunsinger, Lisbeth Klastrup, and Matthew Allen

The Internet: an ethnographic approach: Daniel Miller

Internet Inquiry: Annette Markham and Nancy Baym

Internet Invention: From Literacy to Electracy: Gregory Ulmer

Interop: The Promise and Peril of Highly Interconnected Systems: John Palfrey and Urs Gasser

In the Plex: How Google Thinks.....: Steven Levy

Inventing the Internet: Janet Abbate

iSpy: Surveillance and Power in the Interactive Era: Mark Andrejevic

Learning and Research in Virtual Worlds: Jeremy Hunsinger and Aleks Krotoski

Lingua Fracta: Toward a Rhetoric of New Media Collin Brooke

Mechanisms: New Media and the Forensic Imagination: Matthew Kirschenbaum

The Moment of Complexity: Mark C. Taylor

MP3: The Meaning of a Format: Jonathan Sterne

My Life as a Night Elf Priest: Bonnie Nardi

The Myth of Digital Democracy: Mathew Hindman

The Net Effect: Thomas Streeter

Net Work: Ethics and Values in Web Design: Helen Kennedy

Network Culture: Tiziana Terranova

Networked: Lee Rainie and Barry Wellman

Networks and States: The Global Politics of Internet Governance: Milton Mueller

Networks of Outrage and Hope: Manuel Castells

New Media Reader: Noah Waldrip-Fruin

Online A Lot of the Time: Ken Hillis

Opening Standards: Laura DeNardis

Organized Networks: Media Theory, Creative Labor, New Institutions: Ned Rossiter

The Penguin and the Leviathan: Yochai Benkler

Play Between Worlds: T. L. Taylor

Play Money: Julian Dibbell

The Postmodern Condition: Jean-Francois Lyotard

Preempting Dissent: The Politics of an Inevitable Future: Greg Elmer and Andy Opei

A Private Sphere Zizi Papacharisi

Profiling Machines: Greg Elmer

Protocol: Alexander Galloway

Protocol Politics: Laura DeNardis

Race after the Internet: Lisa Nakamura and Peter Chow-White

Radiant Textuality: Jerome Mcgann

Reading Youtube: Anandam Kavoori

Reload: Rethinking Women and Cyberculture: Mary Flanagan

Remediation: Jay David Bolter and Richard Grusin

Rise of the Networked Society: Manuel Castells

Routledge Handbook of Internet Politics: Andrew Chadwick and Philip Howard

Ruling the Root: Milton Mueller  
Scholarship in the Digital Age: Christine Borgman  
Screens of Power: Timothy W. Luke  
Search Engine Society: Alexander Halavais  
Simulacra and Simulation: Jean Baudrillard  
The Social Media Reader: Michael Mandiberg  
The Social Life of Information: John Seely Brown  
and Paul Duguid  
The Spam Book: Jussi Parikka  
Splintered Urbanism: Steve Graham  
Standards and their Stories: Susan Leigh Starr  
Standards: Recipes for Infrastructures: Lawrence  
Busch  
Synthetic Worlds: Ed Castronova  
Tales from Facebook: Daniel Miller

Theories of the Information Society: Frank  
Webster  
Tubes: A Journey to the Center of the Internet:  
Andrew Blum  
Understanding Digital Humanities: David Berry  
Venture Labor: Gina Neff  
Weaving the Web: Tim Berners-Lee  
The Wealth of Networks: Yochai Benkler  
Who Controls the Internet: Jack Goldsmith  
Where the Wizards Stay Up Late: Katie Hafner  
Wirelessness: Radical Empiricism and Network  
Cultures: Adrian Mackenzie  
Youtube: Online Video and Participatory Culture:  
Jean Burgess

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#### Grading:

Participation in seminar	20 points
Weekly Assignment Reviews:	20 points
Paper Abstract proposal	5 points
Paper Annotated Bibliography	10 points
Paper Rough Draft	10 points
Paper Final Draft	35 points
Total	100 points

#### Weekly Assignment Reviews:

Each week by Monday at 9pm, you will turn in a review of the work that you have read or visited for class that week. Each one is worth up to 2 points. You should strive to do two tasks in this review: first demonstrate that you have read the materials and second you should relate the material to your own life and experiences or to other ongoing courses or courses you've taken. You may, though it is not recommended, miss one of these without penalty.

The paper assignment is divided into: the proposal, the annotated bibliography, the rough draft, and the final draft. The paper must deal with the internet as discussed in this course in a substantive way. The work should be new and produced for this course.

The proposal is a 250 word abstract of your paper as you would describe it to a conference review committee. We will go over good examples of this practice, though it does vary.

The annotated bibliography is no fewer than 20 high quality scholarly resources that you will probably cite in your paper. The annotated paper should be one to four sentences describing how you think this resource will contribute to your paper.

The rough draft must show significant progress toward a completed paper. It may have errors, but should have the complete logical structure, if not the full text.

The final paper is a complete paper as one would present in class, to a conference or to a future employer.

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Calendar:

Week 1 Introduction, Expectations, and basic readings

Class Sept. 12

Read E.M. Forster The Machine Stops

<http://archive.ncsa.illinois.edu/prajlich/forster.html>

Week 2 Personal Connections in the Digital Age part 1

Class Sept. 19

Read Start of book to 71

Visit Facebook.com, joindiaspora.com, tribe.net

Turn in weekly review 1

Week 3 Personal Connections in the Digital Age part 2

Class Sept. 26

Read 72-end of book

visit delicious.com, couchsurfing.com, goodreads.com

Turn in weekly review 2

Week 4 Imagining the Internet part 1

Class Oct. 3

Read start of book - 92

visit deviantart.com, flickr.com, fanfiction.net, wattpad.com

Turn in weekly review 3

Week 5 Imagining the Internet part 2

Class Oct. 10

Read 93-end of book

visit foursquare.com, twitter.com, identi.ca

Turn in weekly review 4

Paper Proposal Due

Week 6 Internet Elites, Subjectivities and Alterities

Class Oct. 17

Read: Chapter 1: The Higher Circles in C. Wright Mills The Power Elite

Gajjala, An Interrupted Postcolonial/Feminist Cyberethnography: Complicity and Resistance in the "Cyberfield" Feminist Media Studies Volume 2, Issue 2, 2002

Luke, Digital Beings & Virtual Times: The Politics of Cybersubjectivity Theory & Event Volume 1, Issue 1, 1997

visit [advogato.org](http://advogato.org), [slashdot.org](http://slashdot.org), [livejournal.org](http://livejournal.org), [metafilter.com](http://metafilter.com)

Turn in weekly review 5

Week 7 Protocol Politics, and Standards

Class Oct. 24

Read: DeNardis Protocol Politics chapters 2 and 3

Pargman Standards and their Stories Chapter 7

visit [ietf.org](http://ietf.org), [iab.org](http://iab.org), [internetsociety.org](http://internetsociety.org), [webfoundation.org](http://webfoundation.org)

Turn in weekly review 6

Week 8 Property, the commons, economy, and piracy

Class Oct. 31

Read: Christman Chapter 2 'What, if anything, is property?'

Karaganis Chapter 2 Rethinking Piracy

Wallace The rise and fall of Bitcoin [http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/11/mf\\_bitcoin/](http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/11/mf_bitcoin/)

visit [piratebay.org](http://piratebay.org), [egydown.com](http://egydown.com), [bittorrent.com](http://bittorrent.com), [bitcoin.org](http://bitcoin.org)

Turn in weekly review 7

Paper Annotated Bibliography Due

Week 9 Property, the commons, and knowledge

Class Nov. 7

Read: Willinsky The Access Principle pp 1-54

David Tragedy of the public knowledge commons by Paul David

Visit [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia.org), [wikileaks](http://wikileaks.org), [Academia.edu](http://Academia.edu) and [Scribd.com](http://Scribd.com)

Turn in weekly review 8

Week 10 Identities Online

Class Nov. 14

Read:

Kendall, Meaning and Identity in "Cyberspace"... In Symbolic Interaction 1998

Rellstab, Staging Gender Online... In Discourse and Society 2007

<http://das.sagepub.com/content/18/6/765.short>

Shaw. Do you identify as a gamer... in New Media & Society 2012

<http://nms.sagepub.com/content/14/1/7.full.pdf+html>

Visit [Reddit.com](http://Reddit.com), [4chan](http://4chan.org)

Turn in weekly review 9

Week 11 Privacy and Publics

Class Nov. 21

Read: Solove, Understanding Privacy

[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1127888](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1127888)

Lewis, et. al. The Taste for Privacy... in JCMC  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1083-6101.2008.01432.x/full>  
Debatin, et. al. Facebook and Online Privacy... in JCMC  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1083-6101.2009.01494.x/full>

Visit Eff.org, Epic.org

Turn in weekly review 10

Paper Rough Draft Due

Week 12 Conclusion

Class Nov. 28

Paper final draft due during final exam period.

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\*note well\*

Grades are given in whole points, not half or partial points.

Any assignment with more than ten spelling, grammar, or logic mistakes will be returned with a grade of a 0, as that is unacceptable. Please proofread your documents as if your job depended on it.

There are no rewrites, however rough drafts may be reviewed prior submission during office hours in the weeks prior to the submission date.

Grades are, unless there is a clear mistake, final.

Late work is not accepted without university acceptable excuse.

Students will be treated and should treat each other fairly, equitably, and with respect.

Some of the content found in on the internet and thus in this course may be offensive to some. It may contain ideas, language, or other content such as swearing, ideological, or sexual content that goes against your creed or personal belief. If you are inclined to be offended, you are hereby forewarned and encouraged to practice tolerance. This is notice that this material may be discussed in class.

## Notes

1. Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact [Laurier's Accessible Learning Office](#) for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.
2. Students are expected to be aware of and abide by University regulations and policies, as outlined in the current [Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#) Calendar.
3. Students must reserve the examination period as stated in the [Undergraduate Calendar](#) under Academic Dates. If you are considering registering for a special examination or event, you should select a time outside the examination period. Consult with the [Undergraduate Calendar](#) for special circumstances for examination deferral. (Applicable to Undergraduate students only.)
4. The penalties for plagiarism or any form of academic misconduct are severe and enforced at all times. The [Student Code of Conduct and Discipline](#), and the procedures for investigating and determining appropriate disciplinary measures for breaches of the Code are given in the current [Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#) Calendar.

Please note: submitting the same work to two different courses, or to different sections of the same course, is academic misconduct and will be addressed according to the procedures outlined in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendar. Students who are repeating a course are not permitted to re-use essays or assignments from the previous course.

Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.

5. Students are to adhere to the Principles in the [Use of Information Technology](#), and the Policy on the Classroom Use of Electronic Devices. These Principles and Policy, and resulting actions for breaches are stated in the current [Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#) Calendar. Please see the [Policy on the Classroom Use of Electronic Devices](#).
6. Students' names may be divulged in the classroom, both orally and in written form, to other members of the class. Students who are concerned about such disclosures should contact the course instructor to identify whether there are any possible alternatives to such disclosures. Additional information on the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act at Laurier is available at the [Privacy Coordinator Office](#).



### **Foot Patrol walk home service | 519.886.FOOT (3668)**

Foot Patrol is a volunteer operated walk-home service, available daily during evening hours. Male-female, radio-dispatched teams trained in Emergency First Aid are available on request to escort students to and from campus as well as to off-campus destinations, either by foot or by van.



### **Counselling Services & Peer Help Line | 1-866-281-PEER (7337)**

Counselling Services are available to help students deal with emotional, psychological and social challenges of university. Counselling, consultation or referral are available on the 2nd floor of the Student Services Building (across from Health Services), Monday-Thursday 8:30am-8:00pm, Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. Peer Help Line, a confidential listening, referral, information and support line, is available during evening hours to provide support.



### **Student Food Bank**

All Laurier students are eligible to use the Student Food Bank. Anonymous requests can be made online at [WLUSU.COM](#) under the Services tab. All dietary restrictions are accommodated, and food hampers typically last up to a week.

For more information visit [WLUSU.com](#)