Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo, ON
Communication Studies
Critical Internet Studies
CS640B (version 2 posted 13Sept12)
Day: Wednesday
Time: 8:30am-11:20am
Room: Alvin Woods 3-103

Instructor: Jeremy Hunsinger
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Office: 2-119b
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3pm and by appointment

Calendar Description
Critical internet studies explores, confronts, and performs research on internet cultures, politics, society and communication in a critical mode. We seek to understand what the critical means in relation to internet research through exploring primary traditions of critical analysis in relation to the critical themes that have developed in internet research.

Readings:
Required books:
Personal Connections in the Digital Age Nancy Baym
Imagining the Internet Robin Mansell
Critical Social Theories Ben Agger
and those required in the syllabus that are downloadable on the internet or will be provided.

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 Vaidhyanathan
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: Mitzuko 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

Linqua 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 Intenret: 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 from the critical perspectives discussed in this course. 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, thought 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.

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
         Horkheimer Traditional and Critical Theory in Critical Theory from Critical Theory

Week 2 Personal Connections in the Digital Age part 1
Class Sept. 19
Read   Start of book to 71
         Agger to 33
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
         Agger to 55
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
         Agger to 77
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
         Agger to 97
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

Agger to 121

visit advogato.org, slashdot.org, livejournal.org, 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

Agger to 143

visit ietf.org, iab.org, internetsociety.org, 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/

Agger to 166

visit piratebay, egydown.com bittorrent.com, 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

Agger to 190

Visit Wikipedia, wikileaks, Academia.edu and 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

Latour. Why has Critique Run out of Steam... In Critical Inquiry 2004

Visit Reddit.com, 4-chan

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
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
Read: As much of the Symposium on Criticism in Critical Inquiry as you think will be helpful in your work, but no fewer than 2 articles.
http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/ci.2004.30.issue-2

Paper final draft due during final exam period.
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note well
The sites you should visit in this class are 'recommended' and not all 'required', but will form a part of the discussion of the class. You are not required to provide any of these websites any information or to subscribe to them in any way.

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 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