MDIA5027

Understanding Digital Cultures

Semester Two // 2018

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Edgar Gómez Cruz	e.gomezcruz@unsw.edu.au	Tuesdays 10-12	231G Robert Webster Building	

School Contact Information

Room 312, level 3 Robert Webster Building

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; examination procedures; special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure; student equity and disability; and other essential academic information,
see https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course critically investigates the internet, social media, and digital technologies - we will trace the pervasive influence of digital cultures throughout contemporary life, moving 'beyond' the digital in order to think about the consequences of digitisation. The course will employ socio-cultural understandings of our information society, with a cultural studies/ethnographic approach to examining the production, circulation, and use of digital media and multimedia.

Understanding Digital Cultures will address a range of themes, such as: material cultures; DIY cultures; visual cultures; etc.

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. Identify and conceptualise the pervasive influence of digital cultures throughout contemporary life.
2. Understand and be able to discuss the interface between emerging/established new media technologies, and cultural practices involving information, communication, knowledge, identities and power.
3. Develop the capacity to critically reflect upon and creatively analyse the implications of particular instances of the production, use, and consumption of digital media and multimedia in today's information society.

Teaching Strategies

The course will be taught with a 1-hr lecture together with a 1-hr seminar each week - it will be focused on active learning, critical thinking and discussion-based thinking, as students will be asked to reflect on contemporary digital cultures within our contemporary everyday life, particularly in terms of their own experience and practice.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
In-Class Project	20%	10/08/2018 11:00 PM	1
Short Essay	30%	14/09/2018 11:00 PM	1,2
Major Project	50%	26/10/2018 11:00 PM	1,2,3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: In-Class Project

Start date:

Details: Ongoing creative project (such as a blog or social media curation), which is worked on in class in small groups.Students will receive verbal feedback in class and written feedback via Moodle; social media statistics and social media feedback will impact the grade.

Additional details:

Check Moodle for more information

Assessment 2: Short Essay

Start date:

Details: 1000 words.Students will receive written feedback via Turnitin.

Additional details:

Check Moodle for more information

Assessment 3: Major Project

Start date:

Details: 2500 words; or, a media format (a video, a blog, a podcast, etc.), which needs to be first approved by the convenor.This is the final assessment task.Students will receive written feedback via Turnitin.

Additional details:

Check Moodle for more information

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au. Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

Late Assessment Penalties

Students are responsible for the submission of assessment tasks by the required dates and times. Depending of the extent of delay in the submission of an assessment task past the due date and time, one of the following late penalties will apply unless special consideration or a blanket extension due to a technical outage is granted. For the purpose of late penalty calculation, a 'day' is deemed to be each 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline for submission.

- **Work submitted less than 10 days after the stipulated deadline** is subject to a deduction of 5% of the total awardable mark from the mark that would have been achieved if not for the penalty for every day past the stipulated deadline for submission. That is, a student who submits an assignment with a stipulated deadline of 4:00pm on 13 May 2016 at 4:10pm on 14 May 2016 will incur a deduction of 10%.

Task with a non☐percentage mark

If the task is marked out of 25, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 1.25 from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The total possible mark for the essay is 25. The essay receives a mark of 17. The student's mark is therefore 17 – [25 (0.05 x 3)] = 13.25

Task with a percentage mark

If the task is marked out of 100%, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 5% from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The essay is marked out of 100%. The essay receives a mark of 68. The student's mark is therefore 68 – 15 = 53

- **Work submitted 10 to 19 days after the stipulated deadline** will be assessed and feedback provided but a mark of zero will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component (hurdle requirement), a student will be deemed to have met that requirement;
- **Work submitted 20 or more days after the stipulated deadline** will not be accepted for assessment and will receive no feedback, mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will receive an Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) grade as a result of unsatisfactory performance in an essential component of the course.

This information is also available at:

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

* Prevent you from completing a course requirement,

* Keep you from attending an assessable activity,

* Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,

* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration webstie:
https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW. (http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise)

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 23 July - 29 July	Lecture	Welcome to the everyday life in the postdigital era. Keywords: Digitisation, technology, everyday life
Week 2: 30 July - 5 August	Lecture	Understanding participation in Digital Culture. Keywords: Consumption, production, participation
Week 3: 6 August - 12 August	Lecture	Understanding digital communities and identities Keywords: onlife, identity, community, social media
	Assessment	In-class project (submission via Turnitin)
Week 4: 13 August - 19 August	Lecture	Understanding visual cultures Keywords: material visual practices, visualities, interfaces
Week 5: 20 August - 26 August	Lecture	Understanding Love, sex and intimacy Keywords: Affect, intimacy, relationships
Week 6: 27 August - 2 September	Lecture	Understanding algorithmic and data cultures Keywords: algorithmic culture, data, datafication
Week 7: 3 September - 9 September	Lecture	Understanding spatial and mobile cultures Keywords: Mobility, space/place, location
Week 8: 10 September - 16 September	Lecture	Understanding political cultures Keywords: Politics, activism, political participation
	Assessment	Short Essay (via Turnitin)
Week 9: 17 September - 23 September	Lecture	Understanding "smart" cultures Keywords: Smartcities, smarthomes, smartphones
Break: 24 September - 30 September		
Week 10: 1 October - 7 October	Reading	Reading Week (no lectures/tutorials)
Week 11: 8 October - 14 October	Lecture	Understanding privacy and surveillance Keywords: control, surveillance, privacy
Week 12: 15 October - 21 October	Lecture	Understanding digital inequalities and algorithmic vulnerability Keywords: Knowledge gap, expertise, inequalities, (il)legitimation

Week 13: 22 October - 28 October	Lecture	Understanding future cultures
	Assessment	Major Project (Via Turnitin)

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Recommended Resources

There are three texts that could present a useful introduction to the course:

Doueihi, M. (2011, 2006) Digital Cultures. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press

Creeber, G. and Martin, R. (2009) Digital Cultures: Understanding Networks. Maindenhead: Open University Press.

Miller, V. (2011) Understanding Digital Cultures. London: SAGE.

Also, some useful journals include: The Information Society, New Media and Society, Media Culture and Society, Convergence, Mobile Media & Communication, Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, International Journal of Communication, Information Communication and Society .

Course Evaluation and Development

The course is intended to be a critical laboratory of ideas about digital cultures. While practically-driven, it is theoretically informed. Please be aware that it is expected from you to actively contribute to the class, participate in discussions and do the readings.

Image Credit

By Edgar Gómez Cruz

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