ITCP 70010 / DHUM 74000 Fall 2019
ITP Core 1 – Interactive Technology and Pedagogy I: History and Theory

Seminar: Mondays, 4:15-6:15 p.m. | Room C415A
Lab: Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Room 6418

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Office Hours: By appointment. Often available to meet in the hour before class and after class.

Prof. Christina Nadler
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Office Hours: By appointment. Often available to meet in the hour before class and after class

Course Description

Students will examine the economic, social, and intellectual history of the design and use of technology. The course focuses on the mutual shaping of technology and academic teaching, learning and research—how people and ideas have shaped classroom and research interactions in the past, and how they are transforming knowledge production in the present. By examining the use and design of technologies inside and outside of the university, students reflect on what it means to be human in a world increasingly mediated by technology.

The course also highlights the theoretical and practical possibilities of digital media for teaching, research, reading, writing, activism, collaborative knowledge production, and play. Assignments for the course ask students to leverage new, multimodal approaches for creating scholarship, including a publishable final paper or project that contributes to the discourse around the use of technology in their discipline as well as considers the growth of fields of academic inquiry such as Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and the Digital Humanities. This course includes a two-hour non-credit bearing lab that takes place on the same day as class, directly afterwards.

Course Learning Goals

- Students will learn to apply theories of pedagogy to technology uses in their disciplines.
- Students will be able to contextualize the design and use of technology within economic, social, and intellectual history.
- Students will learn how to use technologies to create and implement collaborative assignments.

Course Questions

We will interrogate approaches to technology and pedagogy that have served to shape and critique our present technological world to explore questions such as

- What is the history of technology under capitalism?
• How have labor and technology shaped the U.S. academy? How has the U.S. academy shaped labor and technology? How have conceptions of teaching, learning, and academic publishing changed in connection with demands of labor and technology?
• What is the role of an educator? What is an academic product? What could our pedagogies be given the present state of the university?
• What kind of educational technology world do we want? What will/should its values and ethics be? In what ways, concrete and theoretical, can we work towards that world?

Course Materials

All materials are available electronically.

Course Policies and Expectations

We invite the participants of this seminar to collaborate in the creation of our learning environment beyond what is dictated by CUNY’s Policy on Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination, its Policy on Academic Integrity, and its Policy on Reasonable Accommodations and Academic Adjustments. We will take time during our first meeting together to sketch ideas of how we want to engage one another and what we consider to be preferable/suitable policies on attendance, participation, class etiquette (food in class, laptop/smartphone use, etc.), class communications, and late work.

Our Co-created Policies

Classroom Etiquette:

1. Nourishment is welcome (no three-course meals, please).
2. The use of laptops and smartphones for classwork is encouraged.
3. The instructors assume that all communications in and out of the classroom will be courteous and respectful. If you feel uncomfortable about any kind of class interactions, including either instructors’ behavior, please talk to us after class. Really.

Attendance:

1. Up to two unexcused absences are allowed.
2. More than that, the grade will be lowered, unless the absence(s) is/are made up by some extra contribution to the class, to be determined by the instructors and the student.

Late work:

1. If one deadline is missed the instructors will assume there is a good reason for it being missed. A reasonable, clear plan of when the assignment will be turned in is expected.
2. If you miss small tasks, it is your responsibility to figure out to make them up. You do not need to ask for approval.
3. If you miss one of the larger assignment deadlines, you are expected to email Ximena and Christina with a new deadline. You do not need to justify this to us, just make sure you
can meet the new deadline. If you do not submit your assignment by the new deadline, your grade will be lowered.

Grading: We absolutely heard the anxiety surrounding the Final Project and the desire to balance it out by making all assignments weigh equally (or almost equally); however, we hesitate having an early assignment determine the final grade—we would like for everyone to have the opportunity to explore, change their mind, and perhaps even miss the mark at first without being penalized with a lower grade at the end of the semester.

We also understand the concern about creating non-traditional, other-than-a-paper artifacts. How do these compare to a paper? To this issue, let us add a second one: How do we decide the supposed value (grade) equivalence of artifacts created for specific disciplines ranging from biology to theater? The answer partly lies in trust: we believe each of you are inquisitive and professional, and so you will submit the best possible artifact in the time given, and we hope you trust us that we are here to facilitate your work and to provide you with extensive feedback on it.

Thus, the instructors propose that

- the default grade for this class be an “A”

since it is the first stage of development of your approach to digital pedagogies. This class is for you to begin to think thoroughly and earnestly about where your interests lie and where you wish to take them in the next two semesters. As such, the class’s emphasis should be on completing assignments conscientiously and on time to aid your thinking, and on setting high but reachable final project goals you may fulfill by the end of the semester. In fact, we expect we may receive final projects in progress (not the same as incomplete).

We also propose that this default grade be lowered if

1. there is a pattern of absences;
2. a pattern of late work;
3. if work submitted is incomplete;
4. if work submitted (especially the final project) betrays the signs of a seriously rushed job (incoherence, remarkably poor editing, etc.).

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**Course Assignments**

I. Ongoing Engagement via the Course Blog and Forum

Your questions and observations on the texts and activities of the course will help drive our work. Expect to contribute to our blog or forum at least once a week.
II. Wikipedia Experience and Reflection

Description

As you may know, one current practice of interactive technology in classrooms across the world is to have students edit Wikipedia, “the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.” There is even a non-profit organization, Wiki Education, which runs programs and courses “to build connections between universities and Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects in the United States and Canada.”

This assignment will serve as an introduction to the online encyclopedia, its community, and policies, as well as a practical and metacognitive examination of its educational possibilities.

You will undergo two typical experiences of Wikipedia: first, as most first-time editors do, by working on an article of personal interest; next, as many students do, as part of a larger class project where they team-edit an article. These experiences will serve as the basis for a reflection on the merits, challenges, and outcomes of contributing to Wikipedia as a classroom experience.

Goals

- To connect our theoretical readings to practice
- To reflect on the design and implementation of interactive technologies in pedagogical settings by contrasting the experience of Wikipedia as an environment of (voluntary) commons-based peer production and Wikipedia as a controlled, managerially-run experience

Part 1: Working on an article of personal interest

Individually, choose a Wikipedia article on a subject that interests you and contribute to it. Your effort may be extensive or modest (fixing grammar, adding a reference, etc.). Where and how you work on it is up to you, as well as whether you publish your contribution or not.

Due: October 28th before class via a link in the Forum. Be prepared to share your experiences.

Part 2: Playing the part of a student in a typical Wikipedia class

Note: The online tools we will be using have been designed by WikiEducation

1. Join our Wikipedia class Dashboard (a tool to keep track of contributions) at https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/courses/CUNY_Graduate_Center/Interactive_technology_and_Pedagogy_1_(Spring_2019)?enroll=tmkpbwsa
2. Complete the following student-training units at https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/training

Units to be completed:
3. As part of your team, you will create a plan of action to contribute to the Wikipedia stub article “Digital Pedagogy” at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_pedagogy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_pedagogy), put the plan in action, and evaluate the results. You will be expected to work at least partly on wiki to get the full experience of collaborative editing.

Teams:

1. Nathalie, Sean, Carlos
2. Jason, Josephine, Varnica, Olivia
3. Fedor, Emily P., Jessica, Elizabeth
4. Juliet, Sabina, Ayo, Christofer
5. Ryan, Emily M., Braelyn, Joseph

**Due: October 28th before class. Be prepared to share your experiences.**

**Part 3: Reflection on parts 1-2, or what is the value of what you have experienced**

In at least 1,000 words, please cover the following points:

- Analyze how the assignments helped you think about themes and ideas of the class. How do the theoretical readings relate to the practical application of working on Wikipedia pages?
- What did you learn from experiencing Wikipedia these two different ways? Is there an approach that suits you better? Are there aspects to either experience, or both, that you would have designed differently?
- Review the tools and methods that, in the future, you can use to design and implement interactive technologies in pedagogical settings. What did you learn, from practical to philosophical, from revelations to cautionary tales, that you will take with you going forward?

**Due: November 11 by the end of the day as an upload on the Forum**
III. Discipline-Specific Literature Review

Description

A 2,000-4,000 word literature review that explores how your specific discipline is, is not, and is moving toward using technology (and specifically interactive technology) to enhance instruction.

Goal

To build the stage for your Final Project, by getting you to think about what kinds of interactive technology projects and publications would contribute to your specific discipline.

How is your field using technology now in the classroom and in less-formal learning settings? What specific tools and methods have educators with interaction in mind? Who are some practitioners of these tools? What specific concerns must your discipline contend with that are perhaps endemic to its history, methods, and culture?

Use your own disciplines, or one closely allied to your own (e.g. there are many specialties within the field of biology, so you could choose to explore biology generally, or their sub-field specifically).

While a paper is traditional and acceptable, you are encouraged to use multimodal methods to share the information you learn and the arguments you wish to make (though please note, this is no requirement to make arguments). The 2,000-4,000 word requirement is meant to give you a sense of scope for the project, not limit your options in how you create your literature review. Slideshows, videos, infographics, etc. are all welcome.

Due: November 18 by the end of the day as an upload on the Forum

IV. Final Project

Description

One of the most important parts of a graduate student’s work is professionalization. That is, graduate students should think of every assignment as a chance to enter into the academic discourse of their field, as well as that of the larger university community. Since, contemporary academia values the formal creation of knowledge to a never-before-seen degree (e.g. via publishing in peer-reviewed journals), it’s vital that graduate students use their time as they pursue advanced degrees to publish, create, and otherwise join the discourse of their disciplines.

For the final project of ITP 1, therefore, we want you to create a project that investigates how the topics of the course—interactive technology and pedagogy—pertain to your personal interests as a scholar and a future professor/instructor/educator.
Goals

The three goals we hope you will accomplish through this project are as follows:

- To explore, in depth or breadth or both, some aspect of interactive technology and pedagogy as it pertains to your discipline;
- To use a multimodal approach, leveraging the contemporary approaches of creating scholarship that we have learned about in the course;
- To create this project with an ultimate goal of publication. That means, among other things, scouting journals, forums, or other academic venues to submit the project to once it is complete.

Not Necessarily a Paper

One hope of this course is that it has opened up for you the possibilities of new forms of scholarship. We encourage you, therefore, to design a project that allows you the chance to explore database creation and curation; data visualization and infographics creation; novel computational methods to examine questions in your field; and so on.

Since we want this assignment to benefit you in your academic career, part of your work will entail researching what journals or other loci for multimodal scholarship exist for your field. You should use criteria such as peer-review and the number of times articles published in this place are referenced to help you in your decision.

Timeline

1. **Part I: September 23:** Preliminary ideas about a final project. In-class.
2. **Part II: November 4:** Quick check-in. Questions and concerns. Initial planning and prototyping (if applicable). In-class and office hours.
3. **Part III: December 2:** Final Project Approval and Guidance. Discussion of limiting scope and contributing to field. In-class and office hours.
4. **Part IV: December 16:** Final Project Due by the end of the day as an upload on the Forum

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Labs, Workshops, and Support

Students must take six labs per semester as part of the ITP certificate requirements. The majority of these should be ITP skills labs, but you are welcome to supplement with other tech workshops offered by the GC Digital Fellows, the Teaching & Learning Center (TLC), or the GC Library to fill this requirement.

View the [ITP Lab Schedule](#) and register to attend through [Eventbrite](#).
Schedule

**Note:** Readings are in rough chronological order until the last third of the semester, where they are organized by topic

**Day 1: Introduction, Thursday September 5th**

1. Neil Postman: “Five Things We Need To Know about Technological Change” (Speech to gathering of theologians and religious leaders)

**Day 2: Effects of The Industrial Revolution, September 9th**

   - Confused by some of terms Marx is using? This glossary may help: [https://www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory/marxism/terms/termsmainframe.html](https://www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory/marxism/terms/termsmainframe.html)
   [https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/ge/benjamin.htm](https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/ge/benjamin.htm)

**Day 3: Pedagogical Approaches and the United States Academy in the first half of the 20th Century, September 16th, Guest Anthony Wheeler**

1. John Dewey, *Experience and Education* (1938), Chapters 1, 7-8 [Available as a .pdf on course Group site.] Also read the Wikipedia entry:
o Watch as a teaser for behaviorism: The Matrix: Learning Jiu Jitsu: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PVeLqWnaXk


Day 4: Early History of Computers and Internet, September 23rd


4. In Class: Preliminary ideas about a final project.

Day 5: Counteracting the Establishment, October 7th


   https://archive.org/details/TheSocialMediaReader

**Day 7: Intersectionality, In-Betweenness, and Decolonization, October 21st**

**Note:** bell hooks readings will be split among teams, so each of you will not have to read ALL hooks unless you want to

1. Nathalie, Sean, Carlos, Ryan—Read: *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom* (1994). “Embracing Change: Teaching in a Multicultural World” (35-44); AND “Theory as Liberatory Practice” (59-75);

2. Jason, Josephine, Varnica, Olivia, Emily M.—Read: *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom* (1994). “Building a Teaching Community” (129-165);


1. bell hooks, *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom* (1994). “Embracing Change: Teaching in a Multicultural World” (35-44); “Theory as Liberatory Practice” (59-75); “Building a Teaching Community” (129-165); “Eros, Eroticism, and the Pedagogical Process” (191-199); [Available as a .pdf on course Group site.]


Day 8: Web 2.0, October 28th

Due Today: Wikipedia Assignment, parts 1 and 2


   1. **For fun**: The law tries to catch up to tech: [https://twitter.com/cbsnews/status/983789635406004224?lang=en](https://twitter.com/cbsnews/status/983789635406004224?lang=en)

Day 9: Learning Technologies and the United States Academy at The End of the Millennium, November 4th, Guest Steve Brier

In Class and Office Hours: Quick check-in about Final Project.

5. Browse
   
   • Specific ways to make a syllabus accessible: Anne-Marie Womack et. al. *Accessible Syllabus* [https://www.accessiblesyllabus.com/](https://www.accessiblesyllabus.com/)
Due Today: Wikipedia Assignment, part 3


Day 11: Teaching and Labor in the Neoliberal Academy, November 18th, Guest Lisa Brundage

Due Today: Discipline-Specific Literature Review


Day 12: Games and Play, November 25th, Guest Hamad Sindhi

1. Francesco Crocco, Critical Gaming Pedagogy [Available as a .pdf on the course Group site.]
2. James Gee, *What Video Games Have to Teach Us About Learning and Literacy?* (2007) Ch. 1 (Introduction), Ch. 2 (SKIM) (Is Playing Video Games a “Waste of Time”?), Ch. 3 (SKIM) (What Does It Mean to Be a Half Elf), Ch. 4 (Situated Meaning and Learning), Ch. 7 (The Social Mind), Conclusion [Available as a .pdf on course Group site.]


4. Ian Bogost Gamification is bullshit
   http://bogost.com/writing/blog/gamification_is_bullshit/


6. Browse: Joe Bisz, *Composition Games*,
   http://joebisz.com/compositiongames/Composition_Games_for_the_Classroom.html

Day 13: Data Visualization, December 2nd

**In Class and Office Hours: Final Project Approval and Guidance.**

1. Franco Moretti, *Graphs, Maps, and Trees* [Available as a .pdf on course Group site.]
2. Heer, Bostock, Ogievetsky. “A Tour through the Visualization Zoo.” [Available as a .pdf on course Group site.]
3. Lauren Klein The Image of Absence:

Examples of Visualization:

- W.E.B. DuBois’ data visualizations for “The Exhibit of American Negroes” at the Paris Exposition (1900)
- Semantic Lab’s Linked Jazz: Revealing the Relationships of the Jazz Community
  https://linkedjazz.org/network
- Margaret Galvan, Archiving Wimmen: Collectives, Networks, & Comix
- Daniel G. Taylor, Bible Contradictions: http://bibviz.com/

Day 14: Digital Humanities, December 9th, Guests Matt Gold and michael mandiberg

Please join our **private Reading Group** at *Debates in The Digital Humanities* by clicking on the following link and creating an account:
https://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/my/groups?join=YVPKP6X1

**From Debates in the Digital Humanities 2019**
Matthew K. Gold and Lauren F. Klein, “A DH That Matters” (everyone reads and annotates this one)

2. Katie Rawson and Trevor Muñoz, “Against Cleaning”
3. Laura Mandell, “Gender and Cultural Analytics: Finding or Making Stereotypes?”

From *Debates in the Digital Humanities 2016*

2. Sheila Brennan, “Public, First” (to get us thinking about the audiences for a project)

From *Debates in the Digital Humanities*

1. Johanna Drucker, “Humanistic Theory and Digital Scholarship’

From *Bodies of Information: Intersectional Feminism and Digital Humanities*

1. Bonnie Ruberg, Jason Boyd, and James Howe, “Toward a Queer Digital Humanities”

Day 15: The Dystopian Future-Present, December 16th

**Final Project Due by the end of the day as an upload on the Forum**

1. TBD