

Culture and Technology 1000 Web Outline (Fall 2020)

CTS 1000: Keywords and Concepts in Culture and Technology Studies

Term: Fall 2020

Instructor: Susan Brown

This course will be conducted in a hybrid synchronous/asynchronous format:

- Class will meet Monday and Wednesday 2:30-4pm via videoconference. Lecture (but not conversation) portions of classes will be video-recorded and made available after the fact via CourseLink in case of difficulties with internet connections.
- In addition, students will be expected to participate in asynchronous digital discussion using the Slack platform.

Course Synopsis

What words do we need to understand our increasingly digital world? Technologies shape our lives and the culture that we live in. Digital technologies increasingly define human beings and the choices we make. This course takes up important words used to think about technologies and culture and help us explore the relationship between them, both theoretically and in our own evaluation and use of digital tools and applications. It will engage with words connected to big concepts--for example, *code*, *ethics*, *network*, *knowledge*--to expose their complexity. Words change and develop, so we will be exploring them in relation to the history of technology, as well as connecting them to big questions surrounding current concerns including COVID-19, #BlackLivesMatter, Indigeneity, environmentalism, hacktivism, Google search, and Youtube recommendations.

Guest lecturers from across the university will introduce keywords alongside compelling readings. Real-time and online group discussions will unpack interconnections among technologies, ethics, culture, and society, in response to formal and online texts, podcasts, and videos. (Required materials will be available online.) Students will learn to write for a web audience through the creation of their own weblog, which can form the basis of a portfolio of digital work completed over the course of their university career.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate awareness of concepts illuminating the relationships among culture and digital technologies.
2. Define, analyze, and discuss terminology relevant to culture and technology.
3. Write for a public audience.
4. Evaluate the reliability of a digital information resource.

5. Showcase digital literacy skills, with an awareness of their relevance to humanistic inquiry.

Prerequisites: none

Methods of Evaluation and Weights:

Participation and weekly responses to assigned materials	15%
Set up your blog and post at intervals during the semester	20%
Read and assess a digital information source	20%
Keyword poster (virtual)	20%
Final Integrative Assignment	25%

Texts Required:

Required materials will be available online. A personal computer or quality tablet with access to the Internet will be needed to access text, audio, and video materials, and to participate in synchronous and/or asynchronous activities.

*Please note: This is a preliminary website description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.