COM 598 (003) Fall, 2014 Internet and Society

Syllabus

Course Description:

The internet is all around us. Using mobile phones and location-aware technologies, people are browsing information wherever they happen to be. As a result, physical location has become an important factor in how information is categorized and accessed. From online maps to location-based social networks and games, location awareness is becoming central to how we understand the internet today. However, digital information was categorized and accessed differently in the past.

This course explores social uses of the internet, focusing on its historical development as a digital network. In addition to looking at the history of the internet, from the ARPANET to the mobile web, it also explores an emerging form of networked interactions called net locality. Net locality is about happens to individuals and society when virtually everything is located or locatable. This course will run as a seminar and explores the following key topics:

- A historical overview of the development of the internet:
  - Conceptual origins of the internet, such as Vannevar Bush's Memex and hypertext theory,
  - Historical facts that led to the development of the ARPANET and the World Wide Web, such as the transition from mainframes to personal computers
  - The development of HTML as the web's main original programming language and how the internet's functionality was originally based on communication protocols that aimed at sharing resources.
- Social uses of the internet:
  - Usenet, BBS and MUDs as the origins of blogs, wikis, and social networking sites.
  - The development of what was called web 2.0. and co-related issues such as regulation, privacy and digital divide. online.
- Location and Net locality:
  - The affordances of digital networks embedded with mobility and location awareness.
  - Location-based services and location-based social networks.

Course objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:
• Critically reflect upon the state of the internet in today´s society;.
• Describe and analyze the main historical developments of the internet as a digital network;
• Identify basic functionalities of the internet as a digital network;
• Explain contemporary issues related to the mobile internet and location-aware technologies;
• Identify issues related to privacy, surveillance, and exclusion that arise from the ubiquitousness of net-localities;
• Critically analyze the social implications of net local practices for the experience of urban spaces.

Course Components and Grading:

Wiki: 15 points
Blog: 20 points
Text presentation: 20 points
Final paper presentation: 15 points
Final paper: 30 points

I will be grading on the University's A+/F scale, as follows:

- 97-100 = A+
- 93-96 = A
- 90-92 = A-
- 87-89 = B+
- 83-86 = B
- 80-82 = B-
- 77-79 = C+
- 73-76 = C
- 70-72 = C-
- 67-69 = D+
- 63-66 = D
- 60-62 = D-
- below = F

Course policies:

Attendance
As this is a graduate level course, I won't be taking attendance every class. However, I expect that you come to every meeting and act as an active participant in the class discussions. The success of a seminar class depends on the level of participation and involvement of the students. Participation entails not only attending the class but coming prepared having done all the readings, having made an honest attempt at understanding the author's argument, and bringing reading notes and questions you'd like to ask. Should you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes and explanations from a classmate.

One of the premises that make a good researcher is the level of curiosity and independence that you achieve in your research work. As a graduate a student, I expect you to be interested in and curious about the topic, and not expecting me to tell you step by step what to do. Part of your grade depends on your level of independence, and ability to look for outside sources and information by yourself. I am here to guide you, not to give you all the answers.

Course structure and Evaluation
This course is run as a seminar. Learning in a seminar format depends upon preparation and involvement by the students as well as the professor. Therefore, it is very important that you not only read the assigned material, but also that you critically examine and interrogate it. The following questions should help you to do so:

- What are the main ideas and concepts of the text?
- How does this text connect with other readings in the course, class discussions, as well as with relevant outside materials?
- To what extent does this text allow me to understand mobile technologies in general and cell phones in particular? How does it apply to practical issues/my own experience?
- What doesn't make sense to me? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this text?

In each class, one student will be responsible for critically analyzing the readings and leading class discussion. As the text discussion is also part of your presentation grade, you are also responsible for your colleague's grade (as she or he is responsible for yours). So coming to class prepared to answer and ask questions is a fundamental part of this assignment.

A general task to be performed along the course is the development of a database of sources (scholarly and non-scholarly) about internet and society. You need to contribute to the class wiki with news, ads, web pages, video clips, or any other link you may encounter that relates to the issues raised in the readings for that class period. Each student should contribute at least one source each week.

Requirements for Auditors
For details refer to: http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-04

Incomplete and late assignments
Late assignments will ONLY be accepted in the case of verified/documented emergencies in accordance with the excused absence policy referenced above. See the University Attendance Policy http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03.

If, in the case of an emergency you cannot present during your scheduled time, or cannot finish your final paper, you should let me know as soon as possible. If you have reasons for an excused absence, you can still turn in the paper or re-schedule your presentation after the due date upon presentation of appropriate documentation according to the University policies.

Class Evaluation
Online class evaluations will be available for students to complete during the last two weeks of class. Students will receive an email message directing them to a website where they can login using their Unity ID and complete evaluations. All evaluations are confidential; instructors will never know how any one student responded to any question, and students will never know the ratings for any particular instructors.

Evaluation website: https://classeval.ncsu.edu
Student help desk: classeval@ncsu.edu
More information about ClassEval: http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/classeval/index.htm

Policy Statements

Academic integrity
Students are bound by academic integrity policy as stated in NCSU Code of Student Conduct: http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php.

Students are required to uphold the university pledge of honor and exercise honesty in completing every assignment. Instructors may require students to write the Honor's Pledge on every exam and assignment and to sign or type their name after the pledge. ("I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment.").

A student shall be guilty of a violation of academic integrity if he or she:

- Represents the work of others as your own;
- Obtains assistance in any academic work from another individual in a situation in which you are expected to perform independently;
- Gives assistance to another individual in a situation in which that individual is expected to perform independently;
- Offers false data in support of laboratory or field work.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an act of deceit that is taken very seriously by the Department of Communication and by the University. Plagiarism is writing using someone's works -- be it word or ideas -- without giving her or him credit. If you are found plagiarizing you risk failure and even more

stringent disciplinary actions. This is particularly important with web-based materials. If you use someone else's image/words/audio, you must give appropriate credit. For an extended explanation of plagiarism, please go to: http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/scc/tutorial/plagiarism/what.html

If you are in doubt regarding any matter relating to the standards of academic integrity in this course or on an assignment, consult with me before presenting the work. By submitting an assignment to be evaluated, you are certifying that you have not received unauthorized help on assignment.

Adverse Weather

Read the complete adverse weather policy for more info: http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/hr/hrim/adverseweather.asp. Check email, news, the NCSU home page, or call 513-8888 for the latest information.

Students with disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653 http://www.ncsu.edu/dso/. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (REG02.20.1) at http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php.

Electronic Hosted Course Components

Students may be required to disclose personally identifiable information to other students in the course, via electronic tools like email or web postings, where relevant to the course. Examples include online discussions of class topics, and posting of student coursework. All students are expected to respect the privacy of each other by not sharing or using such information outside the course.

Anti-Discrimination Statement

NC State University provides equality of opportunity in education and employment for all students and employees. Accordingly, NC State affirms its commitment to maintain a work environment for all employees and an academic environment for all students that is free from all forms of discrimination. Discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, creed, national origin, age, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Harassment of any person (either in the form of quid pro quo or creation of a hostile environment) based on color, religion, sex, creed, national origin, age, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation is also a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Retaliation against any person who complains about discrimination is also prohibited. NC State's policies and regulations covering discrimination, harassment, and retaliation may be accessed at http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/campus_environ or http://www.ncsu.edu/equal_op. Any person who feels that he or she has been the subject of prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should contact the Office for Equal Opportunity (OEO) at 515-3148.

CHASS CAREER SERVICES:

CHASS Career Services are available through the Career Development Center. Your career contacts are: Jane Matthews and Woody Catoe. Make appointments through ePACK – ncsu.edu/epack.

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📑 **Syllabus**

📑 Assignments

📰 Blog

🌐 Internet & Society Wiki

💬 Announcements

📰 Readings

Week 0: Course overview

Week 1: Before the Internet

Week 2: ARPANET (1970s)

Week 3: GUI (1980s)

Week 4: WWW (1990s)

Week 5: Web 2.0 (2000s)

Week 6: Asynchronous communication

Week 7: Fall Break

Week 8: Synchronous communication

Week 9: SNS / MSN / LBSN

Week 10: Net locality / Mobile Internet (2010s)

Week 11: Digital Privacy

Week 12: Digital Divide

Week 13: Final Paper presentations

Week 14: Thanksgiving

Week 15: Finals

My courses

ADMINISTRATION

Page module administration

▫ Edit settings

▫ Locally assigned roles

▫ Permissions

▫ Check permissions

▫ Filters

▫ Logs

▫ Backup

▫ Restore

Course administration

Switch role to...

My profile settings

 Moodle Docs for this page

MOBILE