

DS 201: Digital Identities & Communities

Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Wendy Burns-Ardolino (Dr. BA)

Office Hours: T/R 2-4pm in Allendale - LOH 245 or by appointment (please email)

Class Meets: T/R 11:30-12:45 ASH 2113

Email: burnsarw@gvsu.edu



The mission of the Grand Valley State University General Education Program is to provide a broad-based liberal education experience that fosters lifelong learning and informed citizenship. The program prepares students for intelligent participation in public dialogues that consider the issues of humane living and responsible action in local, national, and global communities.

DS 201 Digital Identities and Communities Foundations Social and Behavioral Sciences

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain how knowledge in the social and behavioral sciences is created and applied
2. Explain the major approaches, methods, theories, and substantive findings of the field
3. Weigh and apply ideas and claims from the social and behavioral sciences outside the classroom
4. Critical Thinking – use systematic reasoning to examine and evaluate information and ideas and then synthesize conclusions to propose new perspectives and solutions.

Students will:

- Assess relevant information, perspectives and assumptions.
 - Construct logical conclusions based on reason and evidence.
 - Formulate novel approaches or create innovative interpretations.
 - Evaluate the proposed ideas or approaches.
5. Ethical Reasoning – use a decision-making process based on defining systems of value.

Students will:

- Recognize ethical issues when presented in a complex situation.
- Demonstrate understanding of key concepts and principles underlying various systems of reasoning.
- Participate in activities that engage them in ethical reasoning.
- Demonstrate the ability to deal constructively with ambiguity and disagreement.

Grand Valley State University educates students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies.

After successful completion of the course the students will be able to:

1. Analyze how their participation in digital cultures and communities relates to social and ethical issues, such as their self-understanding and performances of racial, ethnic, gendered, sexual, and dis/abled identities.
2. Analyze how their participation in digital cultures and communities influences their relationships with others.
3. Evaluate the social, political, and economic limitations and opportunities created by various digital platforms and spaces.

4. Build an understanding of what algorithms are and how they influence social interaction in digital systems.
5. Judge the ethics of digital privacy.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of what ethical engagement means.

Required Texts

Ohler, Jason. (2010). *Digital Community, Digital Citizen*. Thousand Oaks, Calif: Corwin Press.
 *****Other Content and Readings will be accessible in **Blackboard (BB)**

Blackboard

- Blackboard is GVSU's Enterprise Course Management System
- [Blackboard - Help for Students](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Blackboard - Tutorial](#) - learn to navigate Blackboard within the GVSU environment
[Computers: Getting Personal with Computers](#) - introductory information and links to support tutorials

[Web Technology Information: A Primer](#) - links that provide "a good foundation for using the web" and existing online technologies

[Guide to Web Search](#) - improve your search strategies

Course Syllabus

Course Syllabus available in Blackboard

Updated Email

Many of you have already updated your email address through Blackboard, but for those of you who have not or do not remember if you have, please log on to Blackboard (<http://bb.gvsu.edu>) and make sure the email address that shows up in Blackboard is the one that I can use to contact you.

COURSE Policies: This is an upper-division discussion-based course. Students have a responsibility to come to class prepared to discuss the materials. This means reading, thinking and writing about the material prior to class time. Be prepared for the work to be personally and academically challenging. You are expected to read, listen, and watch thoughtfully, attentively, and respectfully, and to ground your discussion in the texts and a critical integration of knowledge and experience.

Late assignments will be deducted a letter grade for each day late.

Plagiarism: "Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism" (GVSU Student Code). This includes cyber plagiarism (stealing online papers). We will discuss this topic further in class and address any of your questions or concerns regarding citation and plagiarism. **Students caught plagiarizing will fail the course and are subject to disciplinary action.**

Academic Honesty:

For a complete articulation of the University's policy on Academic Honesty, please see the Student Code. University policy prohibits **cheating** (allowing submitting someone else's work under your name), **fabricating** (falsifying or inventing any citation or information in academic work), **plagiarizing** (using another person's words or ideas without proper attribution), and

facilitating academic dishonesty (helping or attempting to help someone else commit academic dishonesty). The consequences for academic dishonesty are serious, and may include failing the course or being expelled from the university.

Attendance Policies: Students who miss more than 2 classes will have their class participation grade lowered by one full letter grade for each additional class missed.

Withdrawal Policy: Based on midterm grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must withdraw online by October 27. **October 27 is the last day to withdraw without academic penalty.**

Environment: GVSU is committed to providing a respectful and responsible learning environment. If you need academic accommodations because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) at 616-331-2490.

Assignments: You will earn your final course grade based on your success in the following endeavors:

In-class Group Discussion Leadership 20%

In-class Assignments and Participation 20%

Digital Identities Mapping Assignment 10%

Midterm Comparative Digital Activism Blog 20%

Ethics (algorithms, darknet, cybercrime) of Digital Engagement Team Project 20% & Presentation 10%

Reading and Viewing

Each week you will have assigned readings from the text and other multimedia sources including online film clips, lectures, and presentations to enhance your reading and online learning.

Student Led Discussion:

At the beginning of the semester, students are asked to look over the syllabus and pick a reading on which they would like to lead a half-hour discussion. Groups of 2-4 will lead discussion first by presenting key terms, concepts and analysis and then will open the floor up to general and/or small group discussion with 3-5 discussion questions to guide us. Those questions are to be turned in to me on Tuesday prior to our class meeting on Thursday. Discussion leaders should plan to meet with me ahead of time to go over their plans for leading class. In-class discussion leadership will be evaluated using the rubric posted in BB.

Unexpected Events:

Sometimes, unexpected events or emergencies occur and must take priority over our academic commitments. If you cannot fulfill your responsibilities for this course because of circumstances beyond your control, please send me an email at: burnsarw@gvsu.edu so we can work together to create a plan.

Grade distribution:

A = 100-93

B =86-83

C =76-73

D =66-60

A- =92-90

B- =82-80

C- =72-70

F =59-0

B+ =89-87

C+ =79-77

D+ =69-67

Schedule of Readings, Viewing, and Assignments:

**Viewing will be assigned a week in advance
Readings Scheduled Below
HW means Homework due the next class**

**Instructor Reserves the right to change course schedule to support student learning throughout the semester*

Week 1 - Constructing Digital Identities: Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality, Ability and Other Identity Markers

T 8/29 – Meet & Greet - Introduction to the Course -Syllabus Review/Lecture (sign-ups in pairs or triads to lead class discussion)

HW Read Digitized Youth: Constructing Identities In The Creative Knowledge Economy (In Documents In Bb)

R 8/31 In-class Discussion

HW Religious beings in fashionable bodies The Online Identity Construction of Hijabi Social Media Personalities

Week 2 - Negotiating Digital Identities – Digital Citizenship

T 9/5 – Labor Day Recess

R 9/7 – In-class Discussion

HW – Read Ohler Book – Intro, Preamble, Chapter 1

HW – Digital Mapping Assignment

Week 3 – Participating in Digital Communities – Ethical Practices

T 9/12 –In-class Discussion

HW Read Ohler Book – Chapter 2

R 9/14 –In-class Discussion

HW Read Platformed racism: the mediation and circulation of an Australian race-based controversy on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube

Week 4 – Building Digital Communities for Action

T 9/19 In-class Discussion

HW Read Narrative Agency in Hashtag Activism: The Case of #BlackLivesMatter

HW –Think about Digital Identities and Consider their construction in terms of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, religion and other key identity markers. What role do these identities play in digital activist communities?

R 9/21 In-class Discussion of Digital Identities Projects

HW Bring in one research article related to comparative activism's blog project for small group discussion

Week 5 – Digital subcultures and Affinity Groups

T 9/26 In-class meet in small groups to discuss your comparative activism's blog and article

HW Read Ohler – Chapter 3 Pages 50-60

R 9/28 In-class meet in small groups and discussion

HW Read Ohler Chapter 3, Pages 60-70

Week 6 – Diversity & Inclusivity in Digital Communities

T 10/3 In-class Discussion

HW: Read Comparing Digital Protest Media Imaginaries: Anti-austerity Movements in Spain, Italy & Greece

R 10/5 In-class Discussion

Week 7 – **Midterm 10/9-10/13 – Midterm Grades Posted by 10/17**

T 10/10 – Visit Library Exhibit – *Reading Time Across Words and Numbers: An Exhibition of Visualization Projects* by Heather Corcoran

HW 10/11 6pm ***Heather Corcoran Lecture, Sea, Sky, and Books: Visual Stories from Data
Mary Idema Pew Library – Multipurpose Room

R 10/12 – Midterm Comparative Activisms Blog Due

HW Read Ohler Chapter 4

Week 8 – Digital Privacy & Surveillance

T 10/17 –In class Discussion

HW Read Ohler Chapter 5

R 10/19 In-class discussion & small group meetings (Brainstorming Ethics of Digital Engagement Research Project)

Week 9 – Digital Community Norms

T 10/24 – In-class discussion & team meetings

HW Read Activating activism Facebook trending topics media franchises and industry disruption

R 10/26 In-class discussion & team meetings

HW Read Ohler Chapter 6

******10/27 Last day to drop with grade of W**

Week 10 – Algorithms That Shape Digital Spaces

T 10/31 In-class discussion

HW Read A Thematic Exploration of Digital, Social Media and Mobile Marketing

R 11/2 In-class discussion & team meetings

HW Read Ohler Chapter 8

Week 11 & 12 – Ethical Dilemmas Concerning Digital Engagement

T 11/7 In-class discussion

HW Read Ohler Chapter 9

R 11/9 In-class discussion & team meetingsHW Read **Morality and ethics behind the screen: Young people's perspectives on digital life****T 11/14 In-class discussion**HW Read **Stuart Hall's encoding decoding model and the circulation of journalism in the digital landscape****R 11/16 – In-class discussion & team meetings**

HW Read Ohler Chapter 10

Week 13 & 14 – Legal, social, and ethical issues related to participation in digital communities**T 11/21 – In-class discussion**

HW Read Ohler Chapter 11

R 11/23 – Thanksgiving Break – Happy Turkey Day**T 11/28 – In-class discussion**

HW Read Ohler Chapter 12 & Epilogue

R 11/30 – In-class discussion & team meetingsHW **Work on Revisions Final Ethics Project****Week 15 – Final Ethics Presentations****T 12/5 – All Projects Due **In-class Research Presentations** (Please Note *****all students must be present for all presentations)****R 12/7 – **In-class Research Presentations** (Please Note *****all students must be present for all presentations)****Graduation Ceremony is 12/9 – Congratulations!****12/13 Final Exam: Wednesday, December 13, Noon- 1:50 (Please Note *****all students must be present for all presentations)**