Course Syllabus

Jump to Today Edit

Syllabus, with linked materials, starting from the point at which Paul E. took over the course. The previous syllabus is still available here.

Course requirements have not changed, except for the following:

- Serve as a lead discussant twice during the term (25 percent of grade; 12.5 percent for each session). Working in pairs, discussion leaders prepare a discussion plan and a handout for the class (a 1-2 page summary of major points from the readings, bullet points only). Maximum time for any presentation is 20 minutes, but other elements (discussion, exercises, small-group work, games) may be added. Discussion leaders will meet with the instructor prior to the class session to go over the students' draft plan. Discussion leaders are also responsible for finding copies of that week's readings and forwarding them to Paul by Wednesday prior to the session. When you are serving in this role, you don't need to write a weekly response. Sign up here for two weeks (you can swap slots with other students later if need be).
- Grading of term paper proposals and term papers: I'll enlist your advisors and perhaps some others to help with this. I'll discuss this with each of you individually to work out a mutually agreeable plan.
- Due date for paper proposals is now Nov. 14, so that I can be there for the proposal workshop day.

3 Oct (Mon): How should we conceptualize "culture" itself?
- Please post your weekly question one hour before class begins.
- Williams, Raymond. 1976/1983. Culture [Online]. In: Keywords (Oxford University Press), pp. 87-93. NOTE: I've given you the entire book, which was a major intervention in its time. The following reading, from Striphias, is in Ben Peters' collection that deliberately echoes the revered Williams volume. You only need to read the entry on Culture.
- Young, Justin. Review of Terranova 2004, Network Culture [Online].
- Heather's Prelimb Notes on Terranova 2004 [Online]. (this and the previous item will substitute for the excerpts from Terranova's book)
- Striphias, Ted. 2014. "Culture now has two audiences: People and Machines" [Online].

10 Oct (Mon): What new methods are being developed to investigate algorithmic systems? What is algorithm auditing?
- Please post your weekly question one hour before class begins.

17 Oct (Mon): NO CLASS (Fall Study Break)

24 Oct (Mon): How do "users" (or "algorithmic subjects") experience and think about algorithms and culture?
- Please post your weekly question one hour before class begins.
31 Oct (Mon): How do "technologists" or "developers" experience and think about algorithms and culture?

- Please post your weekly question one hour before class begins.

7 Nov (Mon): What challenges and opportunities does machine learning pose in a cultural context? Guest instructor: Prof. Sheila Murphy

- Please post your weekly question one hour before class begins.

14 Nov (Mon): Seminar Paper Proposal Workshop Day

- Seminar paper proposal due.

14 Nov (Mon): Is algorithmic judgement inhuman? What would that mean?

- Please post your weekly question one hour before class begins.

21 Nov (Mon): What data and/or metrics do cultural algorithms require? Are there new kinds of quantification because of cultural algorithms? (*) Guest instructor: Prof. Sophia Brueckner

- Please post your weekly question one hour before class begins.
- GROSSER, BEN. 2012. Facebook Demetricator (video; 2:51)
- Bucher, Taina (2012) "Want to be on the top? Algorithmic power and the threat of invisibility on Facebook New Media & Society"
- Gerlitz, Carolyn and Celia Lury (2014) "Social media and self-evaluating assemblages: on numbers, orderings and values http://www.tandfonline.com/co" Distinktion: Journal of Social Theory

28 Nov (Mon): How can algorithmic processes provide accountability? How are algorithms governed? Guest instructor: Prof. Nicole Ellison

- Please post your weekly question one hour before class begins.

https://umich.instructure.com/courses/87074/assignments/syllabus
5 Dec (Mon): What industrial complexes are part of emergent algorithm-driven industries (aka 'big data industries')? The case of biometrics Guest instructor: Prof. Muzzamil Hussain (https://mmhussain.net).*

- Please post your weekly question one hour before class begins.

12 Dec (Mon): Summing up: What is the role of algorithms in cultural theory?

- Please post your weekly question one hour before class begins.
- OPTIONAL: Uricchio, William. 2015. "Recommended for You: Prediction, Creation and the Cultural Work of Algorithms." The Berlin Journal 28: 6-9. (NB, the PDF contains the entire issue of this journal, but the recommended reading is only the 4 pages indicated.)

21 Dec (Wed): Final paper due

Final paper due at 10:00 a.m.
This is the end of the scheduled final exam period for this course according to the registrar’s office. Submitting the paper will count as the final examination for this seminar; there is no other final examination. Submit your paper via e-mail to the instructor.

Course Summary:

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<th>Details</th>
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