ENGL108D Digital Lives
F18 syllabus
HH 139 M/W 11:30-12:50
Class Google Drive: https://tinyurl.com/ya8lp3zm
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_Xhgoxa5GeWZha3m2qWNNiTRkU0CrhO

Dr. Beth Coleman
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Office hours Mondays 1pm-3pm and by appointment, HH 131

Course description:
This course examines how digital communication technologies construct and constrain the formation of online identities and social spaces. More specifically, we will explore the technical, cultural, and social forces that make digital lives both familiar and unfamiliar, traditional and subversive. In addition to studying the who, what, where, why, and how of “digital lives,” this course is focused on helping you develop your skills as an academic reader and writer in the discipline of English. This course will frame two primary analytical methods, theories of participatory culture and modes of data collection. We will use these critical tools to look at several thematics that include digital media and trust, issues of gender & ethnicity, among others.

The work produced for the course will be analytical reading responses, ethnographic studies, and group media projects (research paper or media design). We will include creative, speculative, and applied projects. In order to participate in the course, students must read all assigned materials (provided in e-reader), complete writing and media projects, and prepare the network assets to participate in a virtual classroom (we will use the Google suite). With the exception of week one, all reading assignments are to be completed for the class on the day they are listed.

Assignments are due by 5pm Friday afternoons (with the exception of the final research paper). Mondays will be lecture and structured discussion and Wednesdays will be presentation and workshop.

Course requirements: attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed one unexcused absence during the course term. For any absence beyond that, please email Professor Coleman. The course is made up of reading, media materials, discussion, and short and long form writing assignments. No use of computers in class outside of workshop and group projects. Bring a notebook and pen. Attendance and participation are key to success in the course. If you anticipate any issues or have need of accommodations, please speak to Professor Coleman.

Grading:
20% Assignment #1 reading response paper Friday Sept 28
20% Assignment #2 ethnography dossier Friday October 26
20% Assignment #3 draft of final project November 16
30% Assignment #4 final project December 3
10% class participation (attendance, discussion, workshops, etc.)

Academic standards: students are expected to produce high quality, original work and master the materials on the syllabus. If you have any questions about research procedures, issues of plagiarism, or other matters in producing original, critical content, please address them with Professor Coleman. Late submission of work policy: a grade off first day late and each subsequent day. No work will be accepted beyond 7 days late without prior permission of instructor (e.g., 91 becomes 90…).

Assignments
Due Fridays at 5pm; All assignments must be posted to the appropriate folder on the ENGL108d Google Drive: https://tinyurl.com/ya8lp3zm

Course calendar
Module 1: Theory weeks 2-4

Monday Sept 10 introduction: world building exercise
Wednesday Sept 12 No Class (Prof. Coleman Globe and Mail panel)

1.1 Monday Sept 17 Lecture: Henry Jenkins “Confronting the Challenges of Participatory Culture”
Assignment: “Confronting the Challenges of Participatory Culture” (e-reader). Read: “Executive Summary,” xi-xv (12-16 pdf); “Core Media Literacy Skills” p35-44 (52-71 pdf)
Wednesday Sept 19 No Class (Prof. Coleman Knight Foundation Smart Cities)

1.2 Monday Sept 24 Lecture: danah boyd It’s Complicated.
Assignment: It’s Complicated (e-reader) p. 15-42; 43-67
Wednesday Sept 26 Discussion of 2 texts & reading response format

Assignment #1. reading response paper (500 words Jenkins; 500 words boyd) Friday Sept 28 at 5pm (submit to class drive). Graded with comments.

Module 2: Ethnography weeks 5-8

2.1 Monday October 1 Anthony Kwame Harrison Ethnography: Understanding Qualitative Research (e-reader) chap 1 (p.1-38)
Wednesday October 3 ethnography workshop: micro-fieldtrip & peer discussion of ethnographic research

Monday October 8 Thanksgiving
Wednesday October 12 Reading Week

2.2 Monday October 15 Anthony Kwame Harrison Ethnography: Understanding Qualitative Research (e-reader) chap 2 (page 40-67)
Wednesday October 17 peer-production of ethnography

Monday October 22 ethnography presentations
Wednesday October 24 ethnography presentations

Assignment #2. submit ethnography dossier Friday October 26 at 5pm (graded with comments)

Module 3: Data Analysis/Final Projects weeks 9-14

3.1 Monday October 29 Data Analytics workshop I
Importing and analyzing data in Python
1. Python overview (discussion)
2. Flat files import exercise: titanic.csv
Assignment:
Install Python on student computers
Wednesday October 31 Data Analytics discussion I Kitchin, “Big Data, New epistemologies and paradigm shifts”

3.2 Monday November 5 Data Analytics workshop II
Processing (data visualization)
1. Processing overview (discussion)
2. Hello Processing exercise: shape, color, animation
Assignment:
Install Processing on student computer
Read B. Coleman *Hello Avatar* chapt 1 (p. 11-50)
Wednesday November 7 Data Analytics discussion II Coleman *Hello Avatar*

Monday November 12 group project meeting (+ virtual classroom with Prof Coleman)
Wednesday November 14 group project meeting (+ virtual classroom with Prof Coleman)

Assignment #3: Draft of final project Friday November 16 at 5pm (graded with comments)

Monday November 19 IoT/AR design charrette
Assignment: Work on final project
Wednesday November 21 workshop final projects

Monday November 26 final project presentation
Wednesday November 28 Last final project presentation & course evaluation

Assignment #4. final project due Monday December 3 at 5pm (graded without comments)
Description
A reading response is a 500-word mini essay that focuses on a particular aspect of the assigned text (e.g., problematic, paradox, definition…). Your work in the reading response is to critically discuss the problematic at hand. This means given a referential reading of the primary text (quotations) and can also include citations of other texts, images, or media such as youtube and so on. Remember you should build an argument and not simply paraphrase or summarize the reading.

Grading rubric
A. Demonstration of comprehensive understanding of material 50/100
B. Construction of clear, critical questions of material 50/100

Format
File name convention: put your name in the file title, e.g. “Beth Coleman_text title_RR#.docx”
Word docx files
10 point
1.5 space