Course Dates: 9/26/2016 to 12/11/2016

Office Hours(Flavia 312): Mondays 11-noon, Tuesdays 10-11 am, or by appointment.

Course Description

CMS 305 New Media and Digital Culture (4 crs.) Computers have transformed our interactions with each other and the world all around us. At times conspicuously, at times invisibly, digital technology influences how we work and relax, wage war and make art. The information age has reconfigured our sense of identity as individuals, as communities, and as human beings. By focusing our attention on the ways in which information technologies mediate experience, this course aims to make the role of digital culture in our lives more visible and legible. MU Core Category: Community & Global Engagement.

Texts

All readings will be available in PDF format. No books need to be purchased for this course.

Learning Outcomes

Among other outcomes, students successfully completing the course will be able to demonstrate how information technologies, in the contemporary setting, are reconfiguring our sense of identity as individuals and communities. If you enrolled under the 13-14 or later catalog, this course does not fulfill an MU Core category.

Assessment and Evaluation

Essays: The midterm and final papers (5 double-spaced pages/ 1250 words each) are opportunities to undertake a more detailed investigation of questions raised by the readings or class discussions. These essays are not intended to be research papers. Instead, they should provide a reading of a cultural artifact or phenomenon in light of the critical approach represented by one (or more) of the assigned readings. More details about the essays, including writing guidelines and grading rubrics, will be provided in the first weeks of class.

For more on Marylhurst’s writing standards and academic policies, see page 5 below.

Participation: To succeed in this class, you must carefully read the assigned essays and participate in the online
class discussion.

**Class Routine**

This class will explore a variety of topics in digital culture, including the shifting boundaries between human and machine, the possibilities (and pitfalls) of collective intelligence and crowdsourcing, the aesthetic questions raised by computer-mediated art and music, the societal effects of the explosive growth of computer gaming and social media, and the changing landscapes of law, finance, and war in the information age. Course materials are intended to be accessible to students with no prior academic study of media theory or cultural studies. The readings, however, can be quite extensive (students are strongly encouraged to plan accordingly).

At the beginning of each week, I’ll post the materials for the week, as well as some discussion prompts to get us started. Since this is an online course, your participation in the forums is extremely important for the success of the class. You should plan to contribute at least one considered answer (a short paragraph or two) to each of the discussion questions, and to follow the conversation as it develops. This doesn’t mean you need to be online and in the forums at all hours of the day. Instead, you should consider blocking out two or more times a week to engage with the class discussion (in addition to the time you spend doing the reading and working on the formal writing assignments).

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/26-10/1</td>
<td>What is New Media?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10/2-10/8</td>
<td>Zeroes and Ones</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10/9-10/15</td>
<td>How/Do Computers Think?</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>10/16-10/22</td>
<td>How We Became Posthuman</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>10/23-10/29</td>
<td>Cyborg Manifestos</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10/30-11/5</td>
<td>The Social Network: Identity and the Internet</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>11/6-11/12</td>
<td>Collective Intelligence: Are Two Billion Minds Better than One?</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11/13-11/19</td>
<td>Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproducibility: The Digital Image</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>11/20-11/23</td>
<td>Up Up Down Down Left Right Left Right B A Start: Games and Gamers</td>
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University Policies and Procedures

Marylhurst Writing Standards

Writing is one of the central activities through which students learn, communicate, and demonstrate learning. Academic writing differs from other forms of writing in that it usually:

- is appropriately narrow in focus,
- presents an argument based on sound critical thinking,
- draws upon and properly acknowledges the work of others, and
- presents new understanding in an organized fashion.

Unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, all writing in Marylhurst University classes, from electronic bulletin boards, to personal essays, to formal research papers, will be evaluated on the basis of Standard American English, quality, creativity, effectiveness of argumentation and reasoning, and accuracy of information. In addition, academic writing will be evaluated on the selection and use of appropriate supporting material.

Documentation Style

Any information not original to the student must be cited in a recognized format-for example, APA, MLA, or Chicago-appropriate to the academic discipline.

Preventing Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty that occurs when a student uses information or material from outside sources without proper citation. Plagiarism is grounds for disciplinary action at Marylhurst. It is a student's responsibility to understand plagiarism and its consequences. Students should consult their instructor, their department chair, the Writing Center, or staff at Shoen Library if they have any questions about preventing plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs if:

1. The student doesn't cite quotations and/or attribute borrowed ideas.
2. The student fails to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks.
3. The student doesn't write summaries and paraphrases in his/her own words and/or doesn't document his/her source.
4. The student turns in work created by another person (e.g., another student, downloaded from the internet, etc.).

Students who submit or use their own prior work for a current course or work from one current course in another course without express permission from their professors may also be guilty of academic dishonesty.

Consequences

If it is determined that a student has plagiarized or engaged in other forms of academic dishonesty, the student will likely fail the assignment and possibly the course, despite points earned through other work. Acts of
academic dishonesty are reviewed for disciplinary action by the Provost. **Engaging in plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty can result in dismissal from the University.** For additional information, see "Academic Honesty" in the Marylhurst Catalog and "Conduct Code" in the Student Handbook.

## Writing Resources

Marylhurst's undergraduate and graduate programs have adopted a writing handbook, Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers' A Writer's Reference, 8th Edition, to help students develop their writing skills; it is available in the Marylhurst virtual bookstore. The 6th edition of the handbook can be accessed online at [http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/writersref6e/Player/Pages/Main.aspx](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/writersref6e/Player/Pages/Main.aspx). Writing help is also available at the Marylhurst Writing Center that is located in the Shoen Library. Call for an appointment, 503.699.6277 or email writing@marylhurst.edu.

## Student Rights and Responsibilities

All members of the Marylhurst community are expected to act in ways that foster the university's primary function of education. Conduct that interferes with this educational responsibility will be dealt with directly.

Please refer to the Marylhurst University Student Handbook, for specific information about student rights and responsibilities, as well as the policies and procedures. The Handbook is available online at: [http://www.marylhurst.edu/student-resources/student-handbook/index.html](http://www.marylhurst.edu/student-resources/student-handbook/index.html).

For further information contact the Director of Student Services at 503.534.4073.

## Need For Accommodations

Students who experience disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 503.534-4073; 1.800.634.9982, ext. 4073; or email adaservices@marylhurst.edu for assistance in requesting classroom accommodations.

## Important Notice Regarding Academic Policies

### Course Completion

Students are expected to complete all courses for which they register.

**Dropping a Course:** Students may drop a course without penalty until the published drop deadline.

**Withdrawal From A Course:** Students who encounter unexpected difficulties after the drop deadline may officially withdraw from the course through the Office of the Registrar through the last scheduled class meeting (or last class date for online courses) as per the Schedule of Courses.

**Incomplete:** An Incomplete (I) grade may be granted at the discretion of the instructor when:

1. No more formal instruction is needed;
2. At least 75% of the coursework (e.g., assignments, class participation) has been completed; and
3. The quality of work has been satisfactory; but
4. Some coursework cannot be completed before the grading deadline due to illness or unexpected circumstances beyond the student's control.
5. The Incomplete is granted for a period of one academic term.

For more information on course completion and other academic policies, see www.marylhurst.edu/registrar/policies.php or the Marylhurst University Catalog.