

Proseminar in Media Theory

Instructor: Jay David Bolter (TSRB 317)

(jay.bolter@lmc.gatech.edu)

Meeting: W 12:20-3PM (TSRB 317)

In this seminar (the continuation of LMC 8000), students will explore the key traditions of disciplinary and theoretical inquiry that contribute to the study of Digital Media, including design theory, literary-critical theory, visual culture and the cultural studies of media, communications theory, and performance studies. Students will examine key texts in each of these areas and explore their application to representative digital artifacts.

Course objectives

By the end of the course students will be able to

- 1 articulate the assumptions and methodologies characteristic of the multiple approaches to theory as listed above.
- 2 express their mastery of the theoretical texts by successfully completing the DM qualifying examination.

Evaluation

The evaluation consists of the DM qualifying examination (8 hours) administered during Final Exam Week.

Tentative schedule

Postmodernism

1. Jan 10: Course overview: Jameson, Postmodernism, Chapter 1

The HCI and Design perspective

2. Jan 17: Canceled
3. Jan 24: Englebart; Kay (NMR); Don Norman, The Design of Everyday Things. Dourish, Where the Action is
4. Jan 31: Gaver. What Should We Expect From Research Through Design and Cultural Probes; Dourish, Reading and Interpreting Ethnography; McCarthy and Wright: Technology as Experience; Wright et al_ Aesthetics; Carl diSalvo, Design and Agonism
5. Feb 7: Bardzell, Interaction Criticism and Aesthetics; Dewey, Art As Experience (selections); Dunne and Raby, Speculative Everything (selections)

The Social Science Perspectives

6. Feb 14: Suchman, NMR, 599-611; Turkle, Life on the Screen; Goffman, Presentation of Self

7. Feb 21: DeCerteau, Chapters 1-3, 7; Geertz, The Interpretation of Cultures, 1
8. Feb 28: Lakoff, Metaphors We Live By; Latour: Reassembling the Social; The Science Studies Debate

Media and Communication Studies

9. March 7: Jenkins, Textual Poachers; Negraponte, Being Digital: Intro, Chapters 13-end;
10. March 14: Dana Boyd It's Complicated (Introduction, Chapters 1-3), Boyd-Twitter: Castells: Prologue, NetSoc5; Network Society_6
11. Spring break

Popular cultural studies and Performance Studies

12. March 28: Bolter and Grusin, Remediation; Kittler, There is no software; Heidegger, Question Concerning Technology; Heidegger-Commentary
13. April 4: Merleau-Ponty: Preface and Chapter 3; Moran-Chapter 12 (Merleau-Ponty); Haraway, Cyborg Manifesto
14. April 11: Winner.pdf (Do artifacts have politics?); Foucault, Discipline and Punish; Foucault (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

Philosophical Perspectives

- 15 April 18: DM-MS Presentations?; course overview