COGR 275: Feminist Dialogues on Technology (Spring 2013)

Spring 2013, W 9-11:50, Comm 201, UCSD

Course website: http://thiscourse.com/ucsd/cogr275/sp13/

Recent Announcements

Feminist Infrastructures and Technologies Assembly
A meeting of the UCHRI Feminist and Technology Working Group
April 18-20 2013, Cymer Conference Center, SME Building, UCSD
www.feministit.ucsd.edu (Tue Feb 05, 12:30 p.m.)

Instructors

Lisa Cartwright (Professor)
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http://communication.ucsd.edu/people/faculty/lisa-cartwright.html
Office Hours: W 2-3 in Comm 124B

Elizabeth Losh (Professor)
lizlosh@ucsd.edu / phone: (858) 822-1666
http://losh.ucsd.edu/
Office Hours: M 12-1 in PCYN 249

Course Description

This graduate seminar on feminism and technology is part of a larger distributed online collaborative course (DOCC) initiative described at http://fembotcollective.org/femtechnet/. It provides an overview of major feminist technology theory and practice through consideration of posthumanism, cyborg culture, bioinformatics, reproductive technovisions, disability, gendered and racialized digital labor, and feminist game design and critical sci-art with attention to questions of embodiment, agency, mediation, and difference. Peer to peer teaching and learning, institutional intersectionality, and critical mediation and practice are explored reflexively through projects that feature opportunities for collaborative writing, interpretation, design, media production, and other forms of distributed activity.

Books

Required

Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: A Handbook of Method
Amazon

How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics
N. Katherine Hayles (1999)
Amazon

Suggested

Tactical Biopolitics: Art, Activism, and Technoscience (Leonardo Book Series)
Beatriz da Costa (2010)
Amazon

The Cybercultures Reader
Barbara M. Kennedy (2000)
Amazon

Bits of Life: Feminism at the Intersections of Media, Bioscience, and Technology
Anneke Smelik (2008)
Amazon

Human-Machine Reconfigurations: Plans and Situated Actions (Learning in Doing: Social, Cognitive and Computational Perspectives)
Lucy Suchman (2006)
Amazon
Stacy Alaimo (2008) 
Amazon

Designing Culture: The Technological Imagination at Work 
Anne Balsamo (2011) 
Amazon

The Right Tools for the Job 
Adele E. Clarke (1992) 
Amazon

Revisioning Women, Health and Healing: Feminist, Cultural and Technoscience Perspectives 
Adele E. Clarke & Virginia Olesen (1998) 
Amazon

Hello Avatar 
B. Coleman (2011) 
Amazon

Critical Play: Radical Game Design 
Mary Flanagan (2013) 
Amazon

Women of Vision: Histories in Feminist Film and Video 
Alexandra Juhasz Juhasz (2001) 
Amazon

Feminist Technology (Women Gender and Technology) 
Linda Layne (2010) 
Amazon

Materializing New Media: Embodiment in Information Aesthetics (Interfaces: Studies in Visual Culture) 
Anna Munster (2006) 
Amazon

Seizing the Means of Reproduction: Entanglements of Feminism, Health, and Technoscience (Experimental Futures) 
Michelle Murphy (2012) 
Amazon

women 
Anne Balsamo (1995) 
Amazon

Screening The Body: Tracing Medicine’s Visual Culture 
Lisa Cartwright (1995) 
Amazon

Biomedicalization: Technoscience, Health, and Illness in the U.S. 
Adele E. Clarke (2010) 
Amazon

Control and Freedom: Power and Paranoia in the Age of Fiber Optics 
Wendy Hui Kyong Chun (2008) 
Amazon

Life As Surplus: Biotechnology and Capitalism in the Neoliberal Era 
Melinda Cooper (2008) 
Amazon

How We Think: Digital Media and Contemporary Technogenesis 
N. Katherine Hayles (2012) 
Amazon

Life after New Media: Mediation as a Vital Process 
Sarah Kember & Joanna Zylinska (2012) 
Amazon

Virtualpolitik: An Electronic History of Government Media-Making in a Time of War, Scandal, Disaster, Miscommunication, and Mistakes 
Elizabeth Losh (2009) 
Amazon

The Secret War Between Downloading and Uploading: Tales of the Computer as Culture Machine 
Peter Lunenfeld (2011) 
Amazon

Cybertypes: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity on the Internet 
Lisa Nakamura (2002) 
Amazon
Course Details and Policies

ADA statement

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, it is the intention of the professors to support the full participation of all students in the teaching and learning process of this class. Situations may occur in which the physical or mental needs or learning styles of individual students are not met by the instructional climate. It is the expectation of the professors that students who require specific or additional support to participate in class, to acquire the course content, or to demonstrate their achievement of course objectives will inform the professors of their needs immediately so accommodations can be arranged. All requests will be treated with respect and confidentiality.

UCSD disability services

To get services from the Office for Students with Disabilities you must apply to this office directly. Please note that ADD/ADHD, psychological, and learning disabilities are among those categories included in the OSD assessment guidelines and documentation categories. To start this process you may go online to the OSD website at http://osd.ucsd.edu/ and click on “how to apply for services”; call (858)534-4382 (Voice/TDD); or go in person to the OSD office in Building 985 behind Center Hall on Gilman Drive between Library Walk and Myers Drive (call first for appointment and for on-site designated parking space information and driving directions).
Physical Address: University Center 202
Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm
Website:
http://disabilities.ucsd.edu
858.534.4382 (Voice)
858.534.4650 (Fax)
858.534.9709 (TTY) - Reserved for people who are deaf or hard of hearing
Email:
osd@ucsd.edu (general email)
deaf-hohrequest@ucsd.edu (requests for deaf/hard of hearing services)
altformat@ucsd.edu (requests for formats other than standard print)

## Course Schedule

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wed Apr 03</td>
<td>Tools and ethics of teaching and learning</td>
<td>Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: A Handbook of Method (paperback edition available); AoIR Ethics Guide</td>
<td>IRB training</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Wed Apr 10</td>
<td>Posthumanism</td>
<td>Hayles; Whitehead and Wesch; Barad</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Wed Apr 17</td>
<td>Body, Life</td>
<td>Bits of Life selections; Kember &quot;Cyberlife's Creatures&quot; (CR)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu Apr 18</td>
<td>Feminist IT conference: Screening and performance - 6 PM -10 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fri Apr 19</td>
<td>Feminist IT conference: Panel interviews and presentations &amp; Cluster conversations 8 am - 6 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sat Apr 20</td>
<td>Feminist IT conference: Panel presentations and closing reception - 9.30 AM - 4 PM</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Wed Apr 24</td>
<td>Sexuality, Ability</td>
<td>Cartwright</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Wed May 08</td>
<td>Labor, the Political</td>
<td>Chapter 9 and 10 of Virtualpolitik, Sassen, &quot;Digital Networks and the State&quot;(CR)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Wed May 15</td>
<td>Machines, Assemblages</td>
<td>Suchman</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Wed May 22</td>
<td>Race, Classification</td>
<td>Nakamura, &quot;Race In/For Cyberspace&quot; (CR)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Wed May 29</td>
<td>Systems, Information</td>
<td>Ludica</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Wed Jun 05</td>
<td>Archives, Objects</td>
<td>Bush, &quot;As We May Think&quot;</td>
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## Course Links
