Gender and Technoculture
WMST 320   Fall 2013
California State University,
Fullerton

Prof: Karyl Ketchum
Women & Gender Studies and
Queer Studies Minor Program

Lab: Humanities 512
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Course web page:
http://gendertech.visuality.org/

Jenny Holzer, 1982, "Abuse of Power Comes as No Surprise"

This Cal State Fullerton course is taking part in an experiment in collaborative learning through technology. It is one of approximately 18 Distributed Open Collaborative Courses (DOCCs) offered at "nodal institutions" in the U.S. and Canada in the fall semester, 2013. The DOCC is meant to be a feminist rethinking of the concept of Massive Open Online Courses, or MOOCs. In this course we will create and collaborate on several technology-based projects that explore gender theory, feminism, queer theory, technology, video, art and craft. We will be sharing some of our projects on the DOCC Commons site and variously collaborating and communicating with students at other DOCC nodal institutions.

Segments of this course are "flipped"! This means that I will not "lecture" in class; rather, you will be watching several short vlogs (video+blogs) that I have made that discuss the core concepts of this course. These vlogs are about 10 minutes in length. This is great news because it means that when we are in class together we can spend more of our time talking to each other, doing things, and making stuff with technology! These vlogs are posted on our course website and I will remind you when each vlog is due. Not all sets of readings will have vlogs. You should know the material covered in these vlogs for our quizzes. For more information on the idea of a flipped classroom go here: http://wp.me/pKlio-cq

Note: This is an experimental course and will likely change as the semester progresses. **Collectively, we will reflect on what is working, and what is not working, throughout the semester in order to ensure that the course remains collaborative and relevant to us as learners and creators here at CSU Fullerton.**

Welcome to a unique and fascinating course!

Gender, as a complex and varied social, cultural and embodied experience, and *technoculture*, as the technologically mediated world of digital images, sounds, and experiences, inflect each other in many provocative and fascinating ways. In this course we will be looking at these inter-relationships and we will be thinking about the ways in which they may extend, shape and delimit our ability to interact, play, work and create. We will also be exploring the possibilities of using technology oppositionally -- to signify against some of the very ideas it seems to rely upon for intelligibility: objectivism, "progress," science, modernity and virtuality.

This course takes shape through our collaboration both within class and with the online FemTechNet DOCC community. Our time together will be spent wading through some fascinating ideas about technology, feminism and gender that are loosely grouped under ten general themes:
Labor (or Labour)
Sexualities
Race
Difference
Body
Machine
System
Place
Infrastructure
Archive
Transformation

As we explore these themes, we will also be creating great "stuff" with the various forms of technology available to us both in and outside of our lab. Some of this technology will be familiar to you, some will not; we will all work to support each other in learning these new technologies and in pushing them and ourselves to imagine what is possible through and within them. I assume of each of you a high level of motivation and the ability to be self-directed in your approach to our various course projects.

Our class time will alternate between lab, studio (making stuff!) and discussion formats, depending on what ideas we are exploring each week. In order to be successful in this course you must make connections between the theory presented (readings, discussions, vlogs, video dialogues) and the technologies we are learning (lab and studio). Your active and bold participation is a requirement of this course   indeed; it is the most important requirement of this course! During the semester I expect you to contribute your own ideas and arguments to all our discussions and to be willing to take the risks such contributions require! Again, BE BOLD!!!

Lab Time: The last half of our class time will generally be lab time. Our class lab time may either be structured, meaning we will be working either individually or as a group to learn the different software programs, or, it may be un-structured. Un-structured, or "open," lab time will be devoted to planning, making, and creating. During these un-structured lab times, I am available to work with you individually, to brainstorm with you and, to problem solve. I also expect that each of you will extend yourself to fellow classmates during this time, offering help whenever you can! *Attendance during all lab time is mandatory.*

Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category III.B.1, 2

Accessibility:
If you require accommodations due to a learning difference or disability, please email me

immediately. I am committed to making this course accessible for every student. Also, please note that the Office of Disability Support Services is available to help with this process: 714-278-3317 or www.fullerton.edu/disabledservices/

Classroom emergencies: In case an emergency disrupts our course schedule, I will communicate with you via your campus email account. In such an event, your final grade will be based on all assignments submitted prior to the emergency.

Class Materials:
Flash drive (required)   You will need a flash drive [aka: thumb drive, USB drive, memory stick] for this class. These are available from the CSUF Bookstore, or any store that carries office supplies. Please bring your flash drive to every class meeting.

Access to a digital still and video camera (you need not OWN a camera . . . just have access to one!)   a cell phone camera will work just fine. See me if this is a problem as I have several I can check out to students.

Earbuds (required)   Please bring these to every class meeting

The CSUF Student Adobe Creative Suite ($40.) available here: https://apps.fullerton.edu/E-Licensing/default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fE-Licensing%2fgetstudentlicense.aspx&cookie_test=true

Grading:
Participation (including Facebook posts) = 20pts
Photoshop Gallery = 15pts
Keyword Video = 15pts
DOCC "Key Learning Projects" assignment of your choice (your final course project) = 20pts
Quizzes = 30pts

The sum of these grades = x/100. This course will utilize the +/- grading scale. Final grades will be determined according to the breakdown below:

Highest	Lowest	Letter
100.00 %	93.00 %	A
92.99 %	90.00 %	A-
89.99 %	87.00 %	B+
86.99 %	83.00 %	B
82.99 %	80.00 %	B-
79.99 %	77.00 %	C+
76.99 %	73.00 %	C
72.99 %	70.00 %	C-
69.99 %	67.00 %	D+
66.99 %	60.00 %	D
59.99 %	0.00 %	F

Participation (20pts): This is a discussion-based course requiring a great deal of active learning and peer interaction, and you will be graded on your in-class participation. "Participation" means substantial verbal discussion with the other members of the class and active involvement with in-class work. You will also be evaluated on your preparation for participation each week.

"Preparation" includes coming to class prepared for that day's work, having done the assigned reading and assigned homework *and having spent some time thinking about the ideas presented.*

Assignments:
You have 3 assignments in this course.

#1 - Photoshop Gallery (15pts):
For this project you will be creating 2 image collages in Photoshop and posting these online along with some accompanying theory-based description and analysis. We will create a set of guidelines for this assignment as a group.

#2 - 1 Keyword Video (15pts):
You will each be doing 1 short "keyword video." You can find more information on this assignment here: http://visuality.org/genderandtechnoculture/docc_keyword_videos.html and on the FemTechNet DOCC here: http://femtechnet.newschool.edu/key-word-videos You will have the option to work on your video collaboratively, with one or more people from our class, one or more students from our DOCC or, as an individual. We will create a set of guidelines for this assignment as a group.
   Please do not worry if you have never created a video before—the technology is easy!

#3 - 1 project of your choice from the 5 DOCC "Key Learning Projects" assignments (20pts):
Your final course project should be one of the 5 options listed under "Key Learning Projects" on the FemTechNet DOCC site here: http://femtechnet.newschool.edu/key-learning-projects
You are also required to turn in a theory-based description and analysis of this final project. We will create a set of guidelines for this assignment as a group.

Quizzes (30pts)
Each of these will be short-answer and will cover the readings, vlogs and any other materials due that day. I will be grading these based on how well you demonstrate your understanding of the ideas discussed within that week's assignments. These quizzes will be averaged and that number is worth 30 points, or 30% of your course grade.

Learning Goals and Outcomes:

  • Developing critical thinking skills
  • Developing internet and computer skills
  • Understanding the issues raised by the convergence of gender, race, and technology
  • Analyzing multiple technologies within gendered cultural contexts
  • Integrating critical thinking and writing skills through a gendered lens

Course Catalogue Description: Prerequisite: completion of General Education Category III.B, Introduction to Arts and Humanities. Examines current technologies and their relationship to gender issues, combining theoretical considerations with practical applications. Students will learn some basic technologies to use as tools for their projects. Units: (3)

Course Reading and Assignment Schedule:

* All readings are due in class on the date under which they are listed.

*** This syllabus and schedule will adapt and evolve based on group interests, current events, and time constraints!*

Aug 27 & 28: The What/Why/Who of Gender Theory??? And, *What the heck is a DOCC???*
Review syllabus, questions, TITANium site and FemTech DOCC Commons

Sept 3 & 4: Introductions, DOCCs & Gender Studies 101
Reading:
FemTechNet FAQ

Spender, Dale. "Language and Reality: Who Made the World?" The Routledge Language and Cultural Theory Reader. Ed. Tony Crowly and Alan Girvin Lucy Burke. The Politics of Language. London: Routledge, 1980. 145-53.

Cannon, Robert Alan Brookey and Kristopher L. "Sex Lives in Second Life." Gender, Race and Class in Media. Ed. Gail Dines and Jean M. Humez. Los Angeles: Sage, 2011. 571-82.

Gender Studies 101 Some key terms and basic principles . . . *great stuff!*

Discussion: What is a Feminist? What is "Cyberfeminism"?

Lab:
Second Life

Sept 10 & 11: THEME: The Histories of Sexuality, Gender and Identity Online
Reading:
Stone, Sandy. "Split Subjects, Not Atoms; or, How I Fell in Love with My Prosthesis." The Cyborg Handbook. Ed. Chris Hables Gray. New York: Routledge, 1995. 393-406.

Turkle, Sherry. "Tinysex and Gender Trouble." Sex/Machine: Readings in Culture, Gender and Technology. Ed. Patrick D. Hopkins. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995. 395-416.

Washington Post article "Does Virtual Reality Need a Sheriff?"

Bodies in Classrooms: Feminist Dialogues on Technology, Part I: http://dmlcentral.net/blog/liz-losh/bodies-classrooms-feminist-dialogues-technology-part-i

Vlog(s):
Please view both vlogs linked below, "Thoughts on the Readings by Stone and Turkle!"

Lab:
Second Life

SL Quick Start Guide
Places in Second Life to check out!

Sept 17 &18: Theme: Technology and Vision
Reading:
Kember, Sarah. Virtual Anxiety: Photography, New Technologies and Subjectivity. New York: Redwood Books, 1998. Chap 1   The Shadow of the Object: Photography and Realism.

Bartky, Sandra Lee. *Foucault, Femininity and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power.* Conboy, Katie, Nadia Medina, and Sarah Stanbur Eds.y. Writing on the Body : Female Embodiment and Feminist Theory. A Gender and Culture Reader. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997.

Please go through this Index of Kember-related Images

"Photo Tampering Throughout History," On the Four & Six site   a company specializing in "*image forensics*" http://www.fourandsix.com/photo-tampering-history/   *peruse the entire image archive but pay particular attention to the more recent fakes on page 11 & 12!

Vlog(s):
Please view all three vlogs linked below "Thoughts on "The Shadow of the Object: Photography & Realism" I and II and, "Thoughts on Visual Theory!"

Video:
Extreme Photoshop (we will watch this together in-class)

Lab:
Photoshop
"Content Aware" tutorial
"Puppet Warp" tutorial--cool stuff!!!

Sept 24 & 25: DOCC Video Dialogue Theme 1: "Labor: History of the Engagement of Feminism & Technology" - Judy Wacjman interviewed by Anne Balsamo

Reading:
Balsamo, Anne Marie. "Gendering The TechnologicalImagination," Designing Culture : The Technological Imagination at Work. Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2011.

Wajcman, Judy. "Feminist Theories of Technology." Cambridge Journal of Economics (2009).

Lab:
Photoshop

Oct 1 & 2: DOCC Video Dialogue Theme 2: "Sexualities" - Faith Wilding and Julie Levin Russo

Reading:
Amy Adele Hasinoff, "Sexting as Media Production: Rethinking Social Media and Sexuality," New Media & Society, 2012.

Halberstam, Judith. "Automating Gender: Postmodern Feminism in the Age of the Intelligent Machine." Sex/Machine: Readings in Culture, Gender and Technology. Ed. Patrick D. Hopkins. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991. 468-83.

"F. Wilding: Where Is Feminism in Cyberfeminism." Accessed September 2, 2013. http://www.obn.org/cfundef/faith_def.html.

Vlog(s):
Please view both vlogs linked below, "Thoughts on "Automating Gender" by Judith Jack Halberstam!"

Lab:
Photoshop

Oct 8 & 9: Photoshop Gallery Assignment due in class TODAY!
DOCC Video Dialogue Theme 3: "Race" - Lisa Nakamura and Maria Fernandez

Reading:
Nakamura, L. (2009). Don't Hate the Player, Hate the Game: The Racialization of Labor in World of Warcraft. Critical Studies in Media Communication, 26, 128-144.
"29 Cyberfeminism, Racism, Embodiment." Accessed September 2, 2013. http://refugia.net/domainerrors/DE1b_cyber.pdf.

Rayvon Fouché, "Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud: African Americans, American Artifactual Culture, and Black Vernacular Technological Activity," American Quarterly 58:3(2006), 639--661.

Read about "Black Girls Code" HERE: http://www.blackgirlscode.com/what-we-do.html

Watch "Black Girls Code" mini documentary before coming to class today! Here's a link: http://youtu.be/hgXlofX68eM

Lab:
Video Editing - Camtasia

Oct 14 & 15:
DOCC Video Dialogue Theme 4: "Difference" - Shu Lea Cheang and Kim Sawchuk

Reading:
Beth Coleman, "Race as Technology," Camera Obscura 70, Vol 24, Num 1 (2009): pp. 176- 206

Ketchum, Karyl E. "Facegen and the Technovisual Politics of Embodied Surfaces." Women's Studies Quarterly 37.Special Issue: Technologies (2009): 183-99.
Excerpt from Eubanks, Virginia. Digital Dead End : Fighting for Social Justice in the Information Age. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2011.

Vlog: Please view the vlog linked below, "Thoughts on Spectatorship, Power and Knowledge."

For Discussion:
Keyword videos due Oct 12 & 13!!
Youtube on the "Kulashov Effect"
View projects from previous semesters and the DOCC
Principles of Film Theory Guide
Youtube on film techniques

Lab:
Facegen Software   bring in three pictures of yourself for use in Facegen (one straight on, one right profile, one left profile). You can also download you own copy of the Facegen Modeller (PC version only) HERE: http://www.facegen.com/downloads.htm

Oct 22 & 23: DOCC Video Dialogue Theme 5: "Body"

Reading:
Clare, Eli. "Gawking Gaping Staring." Gay and Lesbian Quarterly 9. (2007): pp. 257 61.

Jack Halberstam, "Technotopias: Representing Transgender Bodies in Contemporary Art," In A Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives (NYU Press, 2005)

"Judith Butler: Bodies in Alliance and the Politics of the Street | Eipcp.net." Accessed September 2, 2013. http://eipcp.net/transversal/1011/butler/en.
austo-Sterling, Anne. Sexing the Body. New York: Basic Books, 2000. Chap 3, "Of Gender and Genitals" pg 45-77.

Knafo, Danielle. "Castration and Medusa: Orlan's Art on the Cutting Edge." Studies in Gender and Sexuality.10 (2009): 142-58.

Ayers, Robert. "Serene and Happy and Distant: An Interview with Orlan." The Cybercultures Reader. Ed. David Bell and Barbara M. Kennedy. Second ed. New York: Routledge, 2000.

Armstrong, Rachel. "Anger, Art and Medicine: Working with Orlan." The Cyborg Experiments: The Extensions If the Body in the Media Age. Ed. Joanna Zylinska. Technologies: Studies in Culture and Theory. London: Continuum, 2002. 172-80
Film: *Intersexion* [68 min.]
Lab: Camtasia

Oct 29 & 30:
DOCC Video Dialogue Theme 6: "Machine" - Wendy Chun and Kelly Dobson

Reading:
Fouché, Rayvon. "Aren't Athletes Cyborgs?: Technology, Bodies, and Sporting Competitions." WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly 40, no. 1 (2012): 281 293. doi:10.1353/wsq.2012.0002.

Haraway, Donna. "A Cyborg Manifesto Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century," in Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature. New York: Routledge, 1991, pp.149-181.

Cross, Jamie. "Technological Intimacy: Re-engaging with Gender and Technology in the Global Factory." Ethnography 13, no. 2 (June 1, 2012): 119 143. doi:10.1177/1466138111410621.
Please look At Kelly Dobson's work here: http://web.media.mit.edu/~monster/ Be sure to watch the video documentation of her work entitled, "Blendie"!

Film:
"Unmanned" (22 min.) We will watch this in class.

Video:
"Collateral Murder" We will watch this in class.

Lab:
Camtasia

Nov 5 & 6:
DOCC Video Dialogue Theme 7: "Systems" - Brenda Laurel and Janet Murray

Reading:
Janet Murray: "Toward a Cultural Theory of Gaming: Digital Games and the Co-Evolution of Media, Mind, and Culture," Popular Communication, 4(3), 185-202, 2006.

Brenda Laurel: "Design from the Heart," in Women, Art and Technology, Judy Malloy, ed., MIT Press, 2003.

Film:
The Beauty Academy of Kabul (74 min) *We will watch this together in-class.*

Nov 12 & 13: Keyword Videos due in class TODAY!!!
DOCC Video Dialogue Theme 8: "Place" - Livestream: Radhika Gajjala and Sharon Irish

Reading:
Radhika Gajjala, "Placing South Asian Digital Diasporas in Second Life," The Handbook of Critical Intercultural Communication, Thomas K. Nakayama and Rona Tamiko Halualani, eds. Blackwell Publishing Ltd., 2010.

Coco Fusco "Who's Afraid of Yoani Sánchez" Huffington Post
Mimi Thi Nguyen, The Biopower of Beauty: Humanitarian Imperialisms and Global Feminisms in an Age of Terror Signs 36: 2 (Winter 2011), 359--383 University of Illinois, Urbana--Champaign

Juan Cole and Shahin Cole, "An Arab spring for women - Le Monde diplomatique - English edition", April 26, 2011, http://mondediplo.com/openpage/an-arab-spring-for-women

Mona El-Naggar, "Equal Rights Takes to the Barricades - NYTimes.com", February 1, 2011, http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/02/world/middleeast/02iht-letter02.html?_r=1

Video:
"Egypt: The viral vlog of Asmaa Mahfouz that helped spark an uprising   Boing Boing", February 2, 2011, http://boingboing.net/2011/02/02/egypt-the-viral-vlog.html ***(Please watch this BEFORE coming to class)

Vlog(s):
Please view the vlog linked below, "Thoughts on Social Media & the Arab Spring!"

Film:
"Forbidden Voices: How to Start a Revolution with a Computer" (96 min) *We will watch this together in-class.*

For Discussion:
UCLA's Hypercities Project on Egypt
Youtube on UCLA's Iran Hypercities Project
Hypercities Project, Tehran the day Neda Agha-Soltan was murdered

Nov 19 & 20:
DOCC Video Dialogue Theme 9: "Infrastructure" - Lucy Suchman and Katherine Gibson Graham

Film:
Forbidden Voices: How to Start a Revolution with a Computer (96 min) *we will watch this together in-class*

Lab:
open

Nov 26 & 27: FALL RECESS no class

3 assignment to complete over break:

#1: watch DOCC Video Dialogue *Theme 11: "Archive"* Lynn Hershman and B. Ruby Rich

#2: Introduce yourself to Lynn Hershman's Agent Ruby from her film "Teknolust" HERE!!
Please interview Ruby about one of the themes from the course DOCC and post your thoughts about the interview and Ruby on our course Facebook page.

#3: Post your thoughts on our DOCC video dialogue on "Archive" on our course Facebook page

Dec 3 & 4:
DOCC Video Dialogue *Theme 11: "Transformation"* Donna Haraway, Catherine Lord, and Beatrice daCosta

Lab:

LAST LAB DAY! You will have all of lab time to work on your final "Key Learning Project" assignments. By the time you leave class today your project should be online and ready to share at our next meeting!

Dec 11 &12: Key Learning Project PAPERS DUE IN CLASS TODAY!
Key Learning Project discussions WOOT WOOT WOOT!!!
Attendance is mandatory and unexcused absence will result in lowering your participation grade by one grade level--yikes!

** Final Exam time Tuesday class: December 17, 5:00-6:50
Key Learning Project discussions WOOT WOOT WOOT!!!
Attendance is mandatory and unexcused absence will result in lowering your participation grade by one grade level--yikes!

** Final Exam time Wednesday class: December 18, 5:00-6:50
TECHNOCULTURE SHARE FEST WOOT WOOT WOOT!!!
Attendance is mandatory and unexcused absence will result in lowering your participation grade by one grade level--yikes!