Learning with New Media
Winter 2015
Location: Annenberg Hall GO2
Class Time: Wednesdays, 9:00 AM–12:00PM

Professor: Jolie Matthews
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Hours: By appointment; Mondays 11-1

Course Description:
This class examines the ways we can study and learn from new media spaces and technologies. From Facebook and Twitter to YouTube, Pinterest, and Tumblr, we consider the pros and cons of different tools and environments in the acquisition and dissemination of general and specific disciplinary related knowledge. We’ll also deconstruct what “21st-century” skills even means, how “new” is new media, and if the arguments around it are truly new too, while actively engaging in media learning ourselves.

Using a combination of critically evaluating the theory, methods, and findings of prior literature, in-class media activities, and incorporating personal interests into the work, students will better understand how to approach a variety of new media as learners, educators, and researchers.

Course Requirements:

Final Project (60%): The chief assignment for this class is the development or extension of a project relating to students’ research interests. In consultation with the professor, this may be a literature review, proposal, draft of a paper (or focus on literature/methods), or another idea as long as it draws from the class yet pushes students’ own work further.

New Media Assignment (30%): Students must create a small media work based on one of the environments/tools explored in the class. Ideally this will relate to the final project, though if students wish to do something separate, this will be an option too.

The project must be non-traditional (no essay) and might be a Pinterest board, set of Tumblr postings, a short and simple video, or whatever else your creative impulse devises. Students may also opt to storyboard an idea for a game/app that you might want to develop in the future. There will be considerable flexibility here as with the final project. The goal is not to overwhelm or force students to do a particular assignment, but rather to expand the ways you can express yourself regarding a topic.

Participation in media exercises and discussion (10%): No response papers, but students are expected to participate in both discussions of the readings and the in-class media activities.
Week 1: (1/7) Introduction
Overview, Survey of Student Interests and Backgrounds

Week 2: (1/14) New Media, New Fears?

Readings:

Required for everyone:

Choose One from Each Group:
Group A:

Group B:

Week 3: (1/21) Wikipedia, Search Engines, Research, and “Trust” Online

Required Readings:
Week 4: (1/28) Opportunities, Challenges, and Benefits of Games, Forums, and Popular Culture

Readings:

Choose One from Each Group:

**Group A:**

**Group B:**

**Group C:**

Week 5: (2/4) YouTube and Vidding Practices

Required Readings:

**Week 6: (2/11) Pinterest, Instagram, and Tumblr**

**Required Readings:**


**Optional Readings:**


**Week 7: (2/18) Fanfiction, Goodreads and Review Communities**

**Required Readings:**


- Miller, L. (2013). Goodreads: Where readers and authors battle it out in an online “Lord of the Flies.” *Salon*. (Very Short Article)


Choose One:


Optional Readings


• *Reddit*. (2013). As Goodreads grows up, it can't please everyone. Should it try?


**Week 8: (2/25) Facebook and Twitter**

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


**Week 9: (3/4) Reflections about the class, Final Activity (if time), and Presentations**

**Week 10: (3/11) Presentations**

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**Statement of Academic Integrity**

Students in this course are required to comply with the policies found in the booklet, "Academic Integrity at Northwestern University: A Basic guide". All papers submitted for credit in this course must be submitted electronically unless otherwise instructed by the professor. Your written work may be tested for plagiarized content. For details regarding academic integrity at Northwestern or to download the guide, visit: [http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/index.html).

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Any student with a disability requesting accommodations must register with Services for Students with Disabilities (ssd@northwestern.edu; 847-467-5530) and request an SSD accommodation notification for his/her professor, preferably within the first two weeks of class. All information will remain confidential.