THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PARIS

COURSE TITLE: Global Internet: Networks, Communities, Markets

PREREQUISITES: None

PROFESSOR: Bernard Geoghegan

CLASS SCHEDULE: Tuesdays, 16h55 - 19h50

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays, 12-2, by appointment.

OFFICE NUMBER: C-56

CONTACT: bgeoghegan@aup.edu

COURSE NO: CM504

SEMESTER: Fall 2008

CREDITS: 3

ROOM NO: Grenelle 301

PERIOD(S): 6 and 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to contemporary cultural and historical research on the Internet and globalization. We will examine how contemporary politics, culture, and economics shape and are shaped by global communications systems, where the Internet often becomes both a tool and a site for social conflict and experimentation. Particular attention will be devoted to understanding and critically interrogating attempts to characterize these social and technical dynamics in terms of networks (e.g. “the Network Society,” “Network Power,” “Netwar”). The course will culminate in students writing a research paper.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS:

Students are expected to become familiar with major topics and themes in research on the Internet and globalization, discuss them critically, and apply them to new problems and situations in class discussions and a research paper. Through an in-class presentation students will also develop their oral presentation skills.

TEXTBOOKS:

REQUIRED:

• “Global Internet” Course Reader, to be available at school bookstore

RECOMMENDED:

ATTENDANCE:
This course places a heavy emphasis on student participation and contributions, both in-class and through Blackboard. Attendance is mandatory and must conform to university policies. Unexcused absences will negatively affect your grade.

GRADING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>(35% of final grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>(25% of final grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>(40% of final grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
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Class Participation
- Students must attend class regularly, and contribute to class discussions (25 points). During the semester students must submit critical responses to the week’s readings on the Blackboard webpage for seven out of the ten class sessions (10 points). Students are encouraged to read and comment upon their classmates’ comments.

Class Presentation:
- During the course of the semester students must prepare and lead one class discussion. (25 points)

Final Paper:
- At the end of the term students must write a research paper of 4,000 to 5,000 words (30 points), and prepare a 15 minute presentation on their research to the class (10 points). Students are welcome to prepare a one-page paper proposal and bibliography and submit it to me for feedback a week or two before their presentation.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes. A maximum of four (4) excused absences per semester may be requested for all 3-credit courses. Two (2) excused absences per semester per 1-credit course may be requested.
The French Department has its own attendance policy. Students are responsible for compliance.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

Student Affairs will recommend that a professor excuse an absence for the following reason only:
- Involuntary absences due to illness or personal emergencies, upon presentation of documentary proof of illness or emergency.

Religious and National Holidays:
Due to the large number of nationalities and faiths represented at the University, religious and national holidays (other than those on the academic schedule) will not be excused by Student Affairs.

Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students’ participation in study trips related to their courses.

Lateness to course meetings:
If a student arrives at course meetings more than 10 minutes late without documentation for one of the above
scenarios, it will be considered an *unexcused* absence. All documentation must be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs within ONE WEEK following the first day of the absence.

**IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.**

Whether an absence (excused or unexcused) is accepted or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive excused and unexcused absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may recommend the withdrawal of a student whose absences from any course, *excused or not*, have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level. The professor may consult with Student Affairs for additional information. Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT:** As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student’s academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

**OUTLINE:**

**Tuesday, September 9th**

**Introduction to course** (overview of reading materials, Blackboard, requirements and expectations for the course, sign up for class presentations, etc.)

**Tuesday, September 16th**

**An information revolution?**

Tuesday, September 23rd
A new global village?
- McLuhan, Marshall. *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*. Intro, Ch 1 (The Medium is the Message), Ch 6 (Media as Translators), Ch 18 (The Printed Word),

Tuesday, September 29th
Nodes within Global Networks
- Derecho, Abigail. “Performing Transnational Anti-Fandom: Filipinos Protesting The Daily Show and Desperate Housewives Online”


Tuesday, October 7th
Network Power

Tuesday, October 14th
Experimenting with Race and Ethnicity Online
- Cunnilingus in North Korea [http://www.yhchang.com/CUNNILINGUS_IN_NORTH_KOREA.swf](http://www.yhchang.com/CUNNILINGUS_IN_NORTH_KOREA.swf)


**Tuesday, October 21st**

**Electronic Embodiment and Disembodiment**  

**Tuesday, October 28th**

**National Identity Caught in the Net**  

**Tuesday, November 4th**

**“Free” Markets**  
• Explore [http://twobits.net/](http://twobits.net/)

**Writing Assignment:** Respond in a manner of your own choosing on [http://twobits.net/](http://twobits.net/). Provide a link to your response on Blackboard.

**Tuesday, November 11th**

No Class
**Tuesday, November 18th**

**Network Warfare**


**Tuesday, November 25th**

**Fans & Trans-**


Dec 1<sup>st</sup>: In-class presentations

December 8<sup>th</sup>: In-class presentations

December 16<sup>th</sup>: In-class presentations. Final papers due.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Please contact me for guidance if you are looking for additional readings. Below is a list of texts that you may find useful for supplementing class readings or helping with your final research paper.


Jameson, Frederic. “Progress Versus Utopia; or, Can We Imagine the Future?.” *Science-Fiction Studies* 9.2


---. *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*.


Smith and Morra, eds. *The Prosthetic Impulse: From a Posthuman Present to a Biocultural Future*. 