THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Zizi Papacharissi, Associate Professor   BTMM 735
Annenberg 334   Thu 4:10-8:00
215.240.5181   TUCC 205
zpapacha@temple.edu
Office hours: MonThu 1-4, by appointment   astro.temple.edu/~zpapacha/btmm735/InfoSoc.html

Overview

This course will examine several theories and research related to what is commonly referred to as the Information Society. We will begin by examining many of the seminal works defining the Information Society and the processes that appear to have led to it. Because the Information Society is linked to new media technologies, we will examine how authors have treated these developments. Specifically, we will explore the economic, social, cultural, and political dimensions of new media technologies. We will end the semester with a look into the future of the Information Society and related technologies.

Required texts

Castells, M. (2000). The rise of the network society. Oxford: Blackwell. (Castells)

Lievrouw, L. & Livingstone, S. (2005). The handbook of new media. Thousand Oaks: Sage.(HNM)

Additional readings have been placed on e-reserve.

Requirements

This course is a graduate seminar, which means that participation in class discussions is expected. Come to class having read the assigned materials and having thought about relevant issues. This class meets once a week, so attendance is expected. You need to let me know in advance if you will not be there.

We will use a listserv for class related communication, to discuss papers, and other questions you may have. Your papers will also be posted on the class listserv.

Over the semester you will write three short papers and one final research paper. I will suggest a topic for the first paper. The remaining two will be of your own choice, but they must address a specific question or issue relevant to the materials covered in class. The final research paper can, but does not have to, build on one of the short papers. The short papers should be no longer than 5 pages (double-spaced). The longer paper is a research paper, approximately 15-20 pages in length, on a subject of your choice. I can help you select a suitable topic and find relevant research material. Any writing turned in for assignments must be original to this course. Sources and references need to be quoted properly – plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment and the course. Any citation format is acceptable, as long as it is used consistently.

In addition to the written assignments you will lead the class in discussion on assigned subjects and dates twice. You will be teamed up with a fellow classmate and will be expected to meet with me a week prior to your presentation to discuss your focus. You may need to read recommended or additional texts to inform your perspectives for this assignment.

Your final grade will be based on class participation (25%), the three short papers (15% each), and the final paper (30%). Class participation will be based on your general contributions to discussion, but also on your guiding the class in discussion on an assigned subject and date.

Schedule

Jan 18: Introduction to the course, general questions

Jan 25: Origins of the Information Society
- Bell / Schement & Lievrouw (e-reserve)
- Flichy/ Webster (HNM)

Feb 1: Information economy transformations: micro and macro levels
- Castells, Intro, 1, 3
- Bates (e-reserve)
- Cooke/ Lamberton (HNM)

Feb 8: Globalization and the information economy   **First short paper due**
- Castells 2
- Herman & McChesney (e-reserve)
- Henten & Skouby/ Mody, Trebing & Stein/ Stein & Sinha/ Flew & Elhinney (HNM

Feb 15: **No Class – Research Day**

Feb 22: Information economy and work
- Castells 4
- Jackson, Poole & Kuhn / Bar & Simard / Urey (e-reserve)

Mar 1: Cultural dimensions   **Second short paper due**
- Castells 5
- Benjamin / Haraway / Gunkel & Gunkel (e-reserve)
- Poster (HNM)

Mar 8: Spring Break

Mar 15: Social dimensions: Community and identity
- Slate / Stone (e-reserve)
- Jankowski/ Baym / Slack & Wise (HNM)

Mar 22: Social dimensions: Utopian and dystopian visions
- Kling/ Katz & Aspden / Kraut et al Internet Paradox studies (e-reserve)
- Rice & Haythornwaite (HNM)

Mar 29: Democracy online? The Internet and the Public Sphere   **Third short paper due**
- McChesney/ Jankowski & Van Selm / Hagen / Malina (e-reserve)

- Luke (HNM)

Apr 5: Policy dimensions: privacy, copyright, access questions
- Gandy e-reserve
- Castells, Conclusion
- Verhulst/Hudson/ Star & Bowker / Lievrouw - HNM

Apr 12: Literacy, human-computer interaction and integration

- Kellner (e-reserve)
- Buckingham – HNM
- Read/skim either Laurel/Computers as Theater or Norman/Things that make us smart – buy new/used or borrow

Apr 19: How to think about the future
- Castells 6, 7
- Joy, Why the future doesn't need us, Response to Why the future doesn't need us

Apr 26: Presentations

Final papers due May 3

Bibliography

Bar, F., & Simard, C. (2002). New media implementation and industrial organization. In L. Lievrouw & S. Livingstone, Handbook of New Media (pp.254-263). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Baym, N.K. (2002). Interpersonal life online. In L. Lievrouw & S. Livingstone, Handbook of New Media (pp.62-76). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Bates, B. J. (1988). Information as an economic good: Sources of individual and social value. In V. Mosco and J. Wasko (Eds.), The political economy of information (pp. 76-94). Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

Blau, A. (1997). A high wire act in a highly wired world: Universal service and the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In H. Kubicek, W. Dutton, R. Williams (Eds.), The social shaping of information super-highways (pp. 247-263).

Bell, D. (1983). The information society: The social framework of the information society. In T. Forrester (Ed.), The microelectronics revolution (pp. 500-549). Cambridge: MIT Press.

Benjamin, W. (1969). Illuminations. NY: Schocken.

Gandy, O. (1989). The surveillance society: Information technology and bureaucratic social control. Journal of Communication, 39(3), 61-76.

Gunkel, D. J., & Gunkel, A. H. (1997). Virtual geographies: The new worlds of cyberspace. Critical Studies in Mass Communication, 14, 123-137.

Haraway, D. J. (1991). Simians, cyborgs, and women. New York: Routledge.

Herman, E., & McChesney, R. (1997). The global media: The new missionaries of corporate capitalism. London: Cassell.

Jackson, M., Poole, M., & Kuhn, T. (2002). The social construction of technology in studies of the workplace. In L. Lievrouw & S. Livingstone, Handbook of New Media (pp.236-253). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Jankowski, N. W, & van Selm, M. (2001). The promise and practice of public debate in cyberspace. In K. Hacker & J. van Dijk (eds.), Digital Democracy: Issues of theory and practice. London: Sage.

Joy, B. (2000, April). Why the future doesn't need us. Wired, 8.04, http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.04/joy.html.

Katz, J. E., & Aspden, P. (1997). A nation of strangers? Communications of the ACM, 40(12), 81-86.

Kellner, D. (2002). New media and new literacies: reconstructing education for the new millennium. In L. Lievrouw & S. Livingstone, Handbook of New Media (pp.90-104). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications

Kling, R. (1991). Hopes and horrors: Technological utopianism and anti-utopianism in narratives of computerization. In C. Dunlop and R. Kling (Eds.), Computerization and controversy (pp. 40-58). Boston: Academic Press.

Kraut,R., Lundmark, V., Patterson, M., Kiesler, S., Mukopadhyay, T., Scherlis, W. (1998). Internet paradox: A social technology that reduces social involvement and psychological well-being? American Psychologist, 53, 1017-1031.

Malina, A. (1999). Perspectives on citizen democratization and alienation in the virtual public sphere. In B. Hague & B. Loader, Digital Democracy: Discourse and decision making in the Information Age, (pp. 23-38). New York: Routledge.

Schement, J. R., & Lievrouw, L. A. (1989). A third vision: Capitalism and the industrial origins of the information society.

Slater, D. (2002). Social relationships and identity online and offline. In L. Lievrouw & S. Livingstone, Handbook of New Media (pp.533-546). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Stein, L., & Sinha, N. (2002). New global media and communication policy: the role of the state in the twenty-first century. In L. Lievrouw & S. Livingstone, Handbook of New Media (pp.410-431). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Stone, A. R. (1991). The War of Desire and Technology. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Urey, G. (2002). Labour and new media. In L. Lievrouw & S. Livingstone, Handbook of New Media (pp.461-477). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.