Living Digitally: A Cultural History of the Internet

figs.wisc.edu/2019fall43

FIG 43 • Fall 2019

main class instructor: **Joseph Bowling**

9 credits

MAIN CLASS

English 178
Digital Media, Literature, and Culture

LINKED CLASS

Computer Sciences 200
Programming I

LINKED CLASS

Sociology 170
Population Problems

In this FIG, we will study the rise and widespread adoption of the internet and ask how it provoked writers, filmmakers, and artists to imagine new ways of living that a digitally connected world could make possible. We will examine three phases in the history of the internet, beginning with its emergence 1980s, its popularization in the 1990s, and the dystopian fears and utopian desires this new technology activated. We will then turn to the new social and collaborative uses of the internet—the so-called Web 2.0—in the 2000s and the transformation of the passive user into active content creator. We will conclude the class by reflecting on the total integration of the internet into our daily lives.

Over the semester, we will examine this cultural history by studying literature and film about the internet as well as by asking how the internet changed the production and consumption of literature and film, made new artistic forms possible, and transformed how we imagine ourselves, culturally, politically, and aesthetically. We will also be attuned to questions of identity and community. For example, how does the internet preserve or transform gendered and racial habits of thought? How does the internet reproduce or challenge the neoliberal, technocapitalist world that has made it essential to our lives? As we grapple with these concerns and questions, we will also incorporate insights from the linked classes in this FIG.

Computer Sciences 200: "Programming I" — Learn the process of incrementally developing small (200 to 500 lines) programs along with the fundamental Computer Science topics. These topics include: problem abstraction and decomposition, the edit-compile-run cycle, using variables of primitive and more complex data types, conditional and loop-based flow control, basic testing and debugging techniques, how to define and call functions (methods), and IO processing techniques. Also teaches and reinforces good programming practices including the use of a consistent style, and meaningful documentation.

Sociology 170: "Population Problems" — This sociology class draws on materials and perspectives from the related fields of demography (the statistical study of populations) and epidemiology (the study of the distribution and determinants of health and disease states in populations). We will examine how certain social phenomena—particularly structural inequality—influence and are reproduced by population change both globally and in the contemporary United States. Throughout the class, we will focus on issues that feature in current social science and public policy debates, including population aging, fertility and reproduction, immigration, and social inequalities. We will pay special attention to disparities by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. ●

Living Digitally: A Cultural History of the Internet

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am					
9:00 am					
10:00 am		COMP SCI 200 LAB 331 9:30–10:45 am			
11:00 am		SOC 170 LEC 1 11:00–11:50 am		SOC 170 LEC 1 11:00–11:50 am	
12:00 pm					
1:00 pm					
2:00 pm	COMP SCI 200 LEC 3 1:20–2:10 pm		COMP SCI 200 LEC 3 1:20–2:10 pm		COMP SCI 200 LEC 3 1:20–2:10 pm
3:00 pm	ENGL 178 LEC 2 2:30–3:45 pm		ENGL 178 LEC 2 2:30–3:45 pm	SOC 170 DIS 315 2:25–3:15 pm	
4:00 pm					
5:00 pm					
6:00 pm					

MAIN CLASS

English 178

Digital Media, Literature, and Culture

LEC 2: MW 2:30–3:45

• Literature
• Elementary
• Honors Optional

credits: 3

class number: **64513**

LINKED CLASS

Computer Sciences 200

Programming I

LEC 3: MWF 1:20–2:10 +
LAB 331: T 9:30–10:45

• Quantitative Reasoning Part B
• Natural Science
• Elementary

credits: 3

class number: **58892**

LINKED CLASS

Sociology 170

Population Problems

LEC 1: TR 11:00-11:50 +
DIS 315: R 2:25-3:15

• Ethnic Studies
• Social Science
• Elementary

credits: 3

class number: **51552**

Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.

So, here's what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

• You can drop all the classes on your own at **enroll.wisc.edu**. Any non-FIG class will not be affected.

• After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.

• **Wednesday, September 11, 2019** is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.

• **Friday, September 13, 2019** is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.