



OLLI 20039 Introduction to Digital Literacies

University of Minnesota, Fall 2013

Wednesdays, 1230-2pm

McNamara Alumni Center, Room 235

Course Leader

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Course Overview

In this course, we will survey basic digital media and literacies. We will examine the basic functions of the Internet, interacting online, and the jargon that accompanies our interaction. We will learn how to effectively and critically navigate, evaluate, curate, and create information and how to protect our information on the Internet.

Readings

We will have readings, and the course leader will provide them. The readings will generally be short, contemporary, and offer diverse viewpoints.

Optional Text: *Cyberliteracy: Navigating the Internet with Awareness* by Laura Gurak

Technology

This course is, in part, about digital technology use. Therefore, using digital technology is required for all participants. Rather than blind adoption, we will critically engage with various technologies to ascertain what best suits our interests.

Tentative Course Schedule

Sep 18	Introductions, expectations, and experiences. Question: What are “digital literacies?”
Sep 25	Digital technologies, the Internet, and speed/reach. Question: What are the consequences of digital technologies?
Oct 2	Digital media, online interaction, and techno-rage. Question: In what ways do online interactions affect contemporary sociality?
Oct 9	Facebook, Twitter, and Google (Oh, my!) and gender in cyberspace. Question: How can we use social media to connect and maintain relationships?
Oct 16	Infotention, curating information, and hoaxes. Question: How do we manage all the streams of information?
Oct 23	Advance searching databases and copyright in cyberspace. Question: How does technology let us know what we can do?
Oct 30	Online commerce and globalization. Question: In what ways is commerce complicated by digital technologies?
Nov 6	The past, present, and future of digital technologies. Question: Where do we go from here?

Participant Expectations

Course participants are expected to do the following:

- Ask and answer questions
- Be critical, kind, and have fun
- Be patient with the technology
- Explore the content with an open mind

Course Leader Expectations

The course leader is expected to do the following:

- Answer and ask questions
- Be available and supportive
- Alleviate any technological stress or fear
- Work to make the course welcoming and fun

Other Considerations

If you have any questions, concerns, personal issues, disability issues that you feel may affect your participant, please do not hesitate to contact the course leader.

“Today we are beginning to notice that the new media are not just mechanical gimmicks for creating worlds of illusion, but new languages with new and unique powers of expression.”—Marshall McLuhan