This course is designed to critically explore the role of digital media in everyday life so as to consider the public’s responsibility in ensuring a more just society. The history, geography, and practice associated with the development and distribution of digital media has enhanced equity in certain areas of contemporary life while simultaneously exacerbating inequality in others. Debates around social justice, globalization, and civic rights vs responsibility will be discussed to question and re-imagine exactly who has access to digital media, where, and for what purposes?

As one of Fordham’s Senior Value and Eloquencia Perfecta 4 Seminars, this course focuses on both the identification and questioning of ethical and moral issues in order to cultivate social responsibility in scholarship and living, as well as help students develop their own communicative skills. Lectures, papers, and projects are designed to encourage students to connect their lived experiences with relevant research, critical theory, and current events. Each student will develop a “Manifesto for a Digital Public“ over the course of the semester that will be communicated in both written and visual form. Students are encouraged to write, discuss, and present early drafts of their manifesto in order to receive constructive feedback before the project’s final submission.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will have the opportunity to:
  - Demonstrate critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills in all course requirements.
  - Participate in contemporary ethical and moral debates over public access to employment, education, and infrastructure in the Information Age.
  - Develop an appreciation for, and demonstrate understanding through, oral and written discussion of key concepts and current issues relevant to digital media and public responsibility.

COURSE MEDIA

- Students are expected to engage with the course blackboard site and utilize Google Slides for a final project. All course readings are available as PDFs and are either hyperlinked within the syllabus or available via blackboard.

ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION

PARTICIPATION

- 20% of final grade

An assessment of each student’s class participation will be made based upon their contributions to in-class discussions. Assessments will not be based on mastery of course content but rather meaningful and consistent engagement in group discussion.

MEDIA SUPPLEMENT

- 5% of final grade

Each student will contribute a 5min visual supplement to one class’ readings, followed (or preceded) by a 5min presentation that unpacks the importance of the chosen supplement and relates it to that day’s readings. The combined supplement and presentation should not exceed 10min. Students *should not* summarize the readings but instead introduce a current event that connects with the day’s readings. Supplements must come from Youtube, Vimeo, or Soundcloud and a link to the supplement should be posted to Blackboard by the start of class.
2 SHORT PAPERS 20% of final grade There will be two short papers of 600-800 words. For each paper, students are expected to critically reflect on a sub-set of course readings in order to argue for or against a particular social position (or practice) that entails digital media. More detailed directions for each paper will be posted to the course site.

MANIFESTO FOR A DIGITAL PUBLIC 30% of final grade Each student will explore a matter of social injustice that they feel is created, or exacerbate, through the public’s engagement with digital media. The manifesto should be 3,000 words and draw on at least four course readings and four external academic sources to explain the importance of this injustice, its relationship with digital media, and how it might be alleviated through more critical engagements with media. The manifesto must also include a ‘media review’ that utilizes Popcorn Maker to create a mash-up of digital content that summarizes and supports the main themes of the manifesto. More detailed directions for this assignment will be posted to the course site.

FINAL EXAM 25% of final grade There will be a final exam covering the semester’s assigned readings, discussions, and lectures. The exam will include a combination of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions as well as short and long essay questions.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES Students are responsible for attending class on time, actively participating in class discussions, submitting assignments on time, and reading all course materials by their assigned date. Students are expected to regularly check their fordham.edu email accounts and the course blackboard site. Students experiencing difficulty with course readings and/or assignments should schedule time to meet during office hours.

ATTENDANCE Students are permitted no more than two absences. Students who exceed two absences will have their final grades reduced by a letter grade for each additional absence. If a student arrives after attendance is taken they will be marked tardy, and two tardies will equal one absence. Exceptions may be made for medical or family emergencies but it is the student’s responsibility to notify both me and their class dean with any necessary documentation.

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS Assignments may be submitted after their due date but will be reduced by a letter grade for each day they are late. No make-up exams will be allowed unless documentation of an emergency can be demonstrated.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY Fordham is committed to ensuring that all members of the academic community strive not only for excellence in scholarship but also for integrity of character. In the pursuit of knowledge and personal development, it is imperative that students present their own ideas and insights for evaluation, critique and eventual reformulation. As part of this process, each student must acknowledge the intellectual contribution of others. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on exams, falsification, unapproved collaboration, and destruction of library materials. Further Details: Standards of Academic Integrity.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES Fordham will offer reasonable and appropriate auxiliary aids and services to assist otherwise qualified persons in achieving access to its programs, services, and facilities once students meet with ODS for an initial intake meeting to develop an accommodation plan directly with the student in accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students who are seeking accommodation(s) for a disability should contact Jessica Hawkins, Assistant Director of Disability Services: disabilityservices@fordham.edu (212) 636-6282.
COMM4005 (SUMMER II 2016)

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

TUE, JUL 5 - FIRST CLASS

- Course Introduction & Overview

WED, JUL 6 - QUESTIONING RESPONSIBILITY


THU, JUL 7


WEEK TWO

MON, JUL 11


TUE, JUL 12 - CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK


WED, JUL 13

- In-Class Reading/Discussion: Homeless Hotspots

THU, JUL 14 - (WRITING WORKSHOP)

- In-Class Reading/Discussion: A guide to New York's plan to cover the city in Wi-Fi hotspots
- In-Class Reading/Discussion: Facebook’s internet.Org Hits Global Flak

FRI, JUL 15 - FIRST SHORT PAPER IS DUE BY MIDNIGHT (via Blackboard)
WEEK THREE

MON, JUL 18

TUE, JUL 19 - UN uneven Media

WED, JUL 20 - (Writing Workshop)
๏ In-Class Reading/Discussion: Digital Manifesto Archive.
๏ MANIFESTO TOPICS DUE BY MIDNIGHT (via Blackboard)

THU, JUL 21
๏ In-Class Reading/Discussion: FCC Adopts Strong, Sustainable Rule to Protect the Open Internet.

FRI, JUL 22 - SECOND SHORT PAPER IS DUE BY MIDNIGHT (via Blackboard)

WEEK FOUR

MON, JUL 25 - DIGITAL (RE)PRODUCTION
๏ In-Class Reading/Discussion: Facebook has totally reinvented human identity: Why it’s even worse than you think. (Salon, 2014).

TUE, JUL 26

WED, JUL 27

THU, JUL 28 - (Writing Workshop)
๏ DRAFT OF MANIFESTOS DUE BY BEGINNING OF CLASS
WEEK FIVE

MON, AUG 1 - DIGITAL PRIVACY & PROPERTY

TUE, AUG 2

WED, AUG 3 - REVIEW & PRESENTATIONS
- Review for Final Exam
- In-Class Presentation of Media Reviews

THU, AUG 4 - LAST CLASS
- In-Class Presentation of Media Reviews (Cont.)
- Final Exam

➡️ FRI, AUG 5 - FINAL MANIFESTOS DUE BY MIDNIGHT (via Blackboard)