

Digital Culture: The Internet Public

EMAC 6342

David Parry

Fall 2012

M 7:00-9:45 CB 3 1.306

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Office Number: 1.502

Office Hours: M 6:00-7:00, R 1:30-3:30

& by appointment

Course Description:

Early criticism of democracy in the age of networked communication was often characterized by a rather significant divide, between those who believed that the network would prove to be the means by which universal democracy would be achieved, and those who argued the network would bring the collapse of democratic institutions. As with other hyperbolic rhetoric throughout history, the reality proved to be far more complicated. In this class we will look at the ways in which the internet has transformed politics and democracy, and perhaps most importantly how we form publics and practice civics.

Required Texts:

(all texts are available at Off-Campus Books and Campus Bookstore)

- Habermas, Jurgen. *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society*. ISBN-10: 0262581086
- Rosanvallon, Pierre. *Counter-Democracy: Politics in an Age of Distrust*. ISBN-10: 0521713838
- Papacharissi, Zizi. *A Private Sphere: Democracy in a Digital Age*. ISBN-10: 0745645259
- Howard, Phillip. *The Digital Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Information Technology and Political Islam*. ISBN-10: 0199736421
- Boler, Megan. *Digital Media and Democracy: Tactics in Hard Times*. ISBN-10: 0262514893
- Morozov, Evgeny. *The Net Delusion*. ISBN-10: 1610391063
- Farivar, Cyrus. *The Internet of Elsewhere: The Emergent Effects of a Wired World*. ISBN-10: 0813549620
- Karpf, David. *The MoveOn Effect: The Unexpected Transformation of American Political Advocacy*. ISBN-10: 0199898383
- Kreiss, Daniel. *Taking Our Country Back: The Crafting of Networked Politics from Howard Dean to Barack Obama*. ISBN-10: 0199936781
- Wark, McKenzie. *Teledustria: Communication, Culture & Class*. ISBN-10: 0745653995
- Carvin, Andy. *Distant Witness*. ISBN-10: 1939293022
- Coleman, Gabriella. *Coding Freedom: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Hacking*. ISBN-10: 0691144613
- Gerbaudo, Paolo. *Tweets and the Streets*. ISBN-10: 074533248X

Additional Readings will be supplied in class.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation (20%): The primary requirement for this course is class participation. To do well in this course you will need to come to class having done the reading for the week prepared to discuss the text at hand. I realize that the reading load for this class is heavy at times, however, we are going to be covering some complex and complicated issues and in order for the class discussion to proceed

and for everyone to benefit the most from our time in class it is necessary for every student to have a shared basis from which class discussions can proceed.

Thus for every class it is your responsibility to come to class not only having done the reading, but to have spent time considering the issues that each text raises, ready to engage in a lively discussion about the questions at hand. Missing more than one class can lead to a lower grade.

Weekly Writing (35%): Every week over the first half of the semester and during many weeks over the second half of the semester students will have weekly writing assignments. These assignments will be designed to help you not only engage the material, but work towards developing and writing your final paper.

Class Presentation: (10%): Over the final weeks of the class students will be responsible for presenting, and framing and overview of their final paper. This will entail explaining the object of analysis, and which other scholars arguments you will be in conversation. More details will be given during the second half of the course.

Final Paper (35%): Each student will be responsible for writing a 12-15 page final paper. The topic of this paper will be developed during class.

Course Website:

The course website for this class can be found at <<http://www.outsidethetext.com/arche>>. You should get in the habit of checking this regularly as I will post suggestions and thoughts about the readings here, as well as links to other things that might interest the class. The syllabus can be found here as well, and any changes to the syllabus will be posted here. If you forget the web address you can always find it from <<http://www.outsidethetext.com>>, an easier url to remember.

University Policies:

Please visit <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for the University's policies regarding all courses.

How to Reach Me:

The best way to reach me is by email <dparry@utdallas.edu> or you can find me online at <<http://www.outsidethetext.com>>. I check email frequently throughout the day. If you email me and do not receive a response within 48 hours (usually I will get back to you within a day), please feel free to email me again (I might not have received your first one) and give me a reminder. I promise not to consider this harassing.

My office hours are Monday 6:00-7:00, Thursdays 1:30-3:30 (or by appointment—I am frequently on campus outside of these hours). My office is ATEC 1.502.

Topic

Framing the Question

January 14th

- Introduction to the Matter at Hand.

January 28th

- Jurgen Habermas, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society*
- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (selections)
- Nancy Fraser, "Rethinking the Public Sphere: A Contribution to the Critique of Actually Existing Democracy"

February 4th

- Victoria Carty. "Overview of Social Movement Theories and a Proposed Synthesis," in *Wired and Mobilizing: Social Movements, New Technology, and Electoral Politics*
- Mancur Olson. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. (selections)
- Manuel Castells. "Communication, Power, and Counter-power in the Network Society."

Reframing the Question(s)

February 11th

- Pierre Rosanvallon. *Counter-Democracy*.

February 18th

- Zizi Papacharissi. *A Private Sphere*

The Media Landscape

February 25th

- Megan Boler. *Digital Media and Democracy*

March 4th

- Phillip Howard. *The Digital Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*.

March 18th

- Cyrus Farivar. *Internet of Elsewhere*

March 25th

- Evgeny Morozov. *The Net Delusion*
- Paolo Gerbaudo. *Tweets and the Streets*

Institutional Effects

April 1st

- David Karpf. *The Move On Effect: The Unexpected Transformation of American Political Advocacy*

April 8th

- Daniel Kreiss. *Taking our Country Back: The Crafting of Networked Politics from Howard Dean to Barack Obama*

April 15th

- Andy Carvin. *Distant Witness*.

Topic

A Changed Political Consciousness

April 22nd

- Gabriella Coleman. *Coding Freedom: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Hacking*.

April 29th

- McKenzie Wark. *Telethesia: Communication, Culture, & Class*.

Final Papers Due May 6th