The purpose of this seminar is to come to an advanced historical understanding of the changed conditions that characterize our networked age. As a history of the contemporary, the seminar is organized around a series of topics tracing a genealogy of present-day culture, focusing on the network not merely as a technology with social ramifications but rather as a cultural dominant that connects changes in society, economy, aesthetics, urbanism, and ideology. It is a primary thesis of this course that the network is not an innocent technology but rather a social construction that serves to naturalize and exacerbate uneven growth and the distribution of power.

Topics to be addressed include network theory, changing concepts of time and space, the rise of networked publics, contemporary poetics, new forms of subjectivity, and methods of control. Throughout, we will make connections between architecture, urbanism and this insurgent condition.

Requirements

Participation: 20%

Each class will consist of a presentation by the instructor on selected themes, followed by an in-depth discussion in seminar. Students are expected to prepare all readings in order to facilitate a discussion in which all participate. Active participation by all students in each session is required.

Reading Journal: 20%

Students will submit responses to assigned readings at the last class of every month. This may consist of typed responses, a minimum of 300 words per reading, or original PDFs with annotations (for example, in Acrobat or Skim). Responses may be handwritten, but must be legible. Responses may be in terms of bullet points, but again, must be understandable to another reader. Students should think of this as a matter of making the readings understandable to others.

All readings will be available on-line. An asterisk denotes foundational texts of particular importance that set the context for more recently written readings.

Term Project: 80%

For a term project, students have an option of either undertaking a research project or an essay. Either is due on Friday, December 12.

The research project option consists of field research carefully presented together with a 2,000-word essay. (roughly 10 pages double spaced, 12 points) accompanying the research.

Students should take a critical text from the 1960s/1970s that examined the interface between humans and their environment and update it, using original research and fieldwork (for example photography and film) for the present day to explore the impact of network culture on the previous condition.


If students choose to write an essay, they should turn in an essay of roughly 4,000 words (roughly 20 pages double spaced, 12 points).

Plagiarism of any sort will result in immediate failure.
See http://www.arch.columbia.edu/resources/gsapp-policies/plagiarism

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<td><strong>An Overview of Networks</strong></td>
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**Required:**


**Recommended:**

Network Theory

Required:


Nicholas Carr, “From the Many to the Few” The Big Switch: Rewiring the World from Edison to Google (New York: W. W. Norton, 2008), 127-149.


Recommended:


Control

Required:


Recommended:


Class held 12-2, Lunchtime Event with Astra Taylor, Andrew Blum, and Leah Meisterlin

Reading TBA
Postmodernism and Periodization

Required:


Recommended:


Time


transcribed: http://www.wired.com/beyond_the_beyond/2010/02/atemporality-for-the-creative-artist/
08 10.24  Space

Required:


Recommended:


09 10.31  Subjectivity

Required:


Recommend:


Publics

Required:

* Jürgen Habermas, “The Public Sphere, An Encyclopedia Article,” *New German Critique* No. 3 (Autumn, 1974), 49-55.


Recommended:


Poetics

Required:

* “The Medium is the Message” and “Media Hot and Cold” in Marshall McLuhan, *Understanding Media: The Extension of Man*, *The MIT Press*


Recommended:


Complexity / Conclusion

Required:


Recommended: