Instructor

Dr. Kate Williams
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Office hours: Thursdays 1:30-3:30

Course description

A survey of key concepts in an emerging field that studies how local, historical communities are using information and communications technologies. Covers key principles for work in the non-profit/public sector as people harness new technologies and media as individuals, students, families, community organizations, and so on. Overarching ideas prepare both professionals and researchers to understand and master this environment, whatever their technology background. Especially useful for those interested in public or community libraries, youth services, social work, education, and anyone interested in working with or studying underserved communities. The required course for the community informatics specialization.

Assignments and course requirements

1. Read: Read the weekly assigned course readings and the websites connected with each Digital Divide guest lecture.

2. Reflect: Turn in a three-paragraph reflection on each Digital Divide lecture (first one is due Sept 17, then every week through Dec 3). 15% of course grade.

3. Talk: Present two of the readings, bringing a one page summary, three marked passages you find most interesting, three questions for discussion; when it isn’t your week to present, speak up too. (Choose your readings—and your weeks—in class August 27.) 15% of course grade.

4. Explore: Carry out three field work assignments and bring your experiences into class discussion
   a. Community wireless survey (report due Sep 10). 15% of course grade.
   b. Community in cyberspace (report due Sep 24). 15% of course grade.
5. **Analyze:** Turn in a five page paper analyzing what you experienced and learned in the fieldwork, using concepts you select from the course readings or other texts (due Nov 19). 20% of course grade.

6. **Connect:** In last class, sum up what you’ve learned and how it relates to your chosen profession and ideas you’ve learned in other coursework.


Note: Upload writing, single spaced, to the instructor’s netfile space, [http://tinyurl.com/590COL](http://tinyurl.com/590COL). Use the filename yourname-duedate-assignment.doc (or whatever file format you like).

**Texts**

All texts can be purchased or obtained from the web or the library; interlibrary loan is very effective. The assigned pages are also provided as pdf files.

**Audio**

In addition to the texts listed below, you will listen to audirecordings of 30-45 minute talks that will be posted weekly September 10-November 19. This is the second Digital Divide lecture Series given at GSLIS. If you are in Champaign-Urbana, you can join in person 9-10 am Thursdays in Room 126.

**Readings, with assignments indicated**

**August 27. Introductions/What is CI?**


**September 3. Community as history**


**September 10. Community as network**


*Turn in Community wireless report.*
September 17. Community in disaster  
Readings will be posted.  
*Turn in reflection on Digital Divide lecture.*

September 24. Virtual community  
*Turn in C-U in Cyberspace report and reflection on Digital Divide lecture.*

October 1. Early ideas.  
Bush, Vanevar. *As We May Think.* *Atlantic Monthly,* 1945.  
*Turn in reflection on Digital Divide lecture. Start Computer Class Month.*

October 8. The information age; key concepts  
*Turn in reflection on Digital Divide lecture. Continue Computer Class Month.*

October 15. The network society, the dual city the space of flows  
*Turn in reflection on Digital Divide lecture. Continue Computer Class Month. This particular day class will meet in person, on campus, starting with the Digital Divide lecture.*

October 22. Literacy  
Turn in reflection on Digital Divide lecture. Continue Computer Class Month.

October 29. Empirical work: Case studies


Turn in reflection on Digital Divide lecture and report on Computer Class Month.

November 5. Empirical work: Datasets


Turn in reflection on Digital Divide lecture.

November 12. Empirical work: Cyberorganizing


Turn in reflection on Digital Divide lecture.

November 19. Empirical work: Cyberpower


Turn in reflection on Digital Divide lecture and Analysis of field work.

December 3. Reflections and discussion.
Bring your oral reflections on this course as it connects with your chosen profession and with ideas from other courses.

The Digital Divide: What is it? What can be done about it?
Second Annual Fall Lecture Series on the Digital Divide
University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science
9-10 am Thursdays, Room 126 / audio at http://www.lis.illinois.edu/news/lectures.html

September 10  What is the Digital Divide?
Kate Williams, U of I GSLIS
http://www-personal.umich.edu/~katewill/kwd3workshop.pdf
http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/computer.html
http://www.pewinternet.org/topics/Digital-Divide.aspx

September 17  UC2B: The Urbana Champaign Big Broadband Proposal, August 2009
Mike Smeltzer, U of I CITES, and Abdul Alkalimat, U of I GSLIS/DAAS
https://wiki.cites.uiuc.edu/wiki/display/bac/UC2B
http://www.cuopenaccess.org/

September 24  The Search for Broadband Data
Maryalice Wu and Dawn Nicholson-Owens, U of I ATLAS, and Safiya Umoja Noble, U of I GSLIS
http://www.atlas.illinois.edu/
http://www.ojctech.com/about/safiya-noble

October 1  Solutions: CU-WiN (Champaign Urbana Wireless Network)
Sascha Meinrath, Research Director, Wireless Future Program; New America Foundation
http://cuwireless.net
http://www.newamerica.net/people/sascha_meinrath

October 8  Policy: The Public Library
Debra Lissak, Executive Director, and Mary Ellen Farrell, Board Chair, Urbana Free Library
http://urbanafreelibrary.org/

October 15  Policy: The Public School
Don Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Urbana School District 116
http://www.usd116.org/home/

October 22  Solutions: Community perspectives
Andre Arrington, Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, and Dawn Blackman, Church of the Brethren
October 29  Solutions: The Community College and the Community Technology Center
Maria Mobasseri, Computer Science and Information Technology Department Chair, and Brian Bell, Part time Instructor and DCEO Grant Coordinator, Parkland College
http://your.parkland.edu/Media/Website%20Resources/PDF/catalog/catalog.pdf
#page=99
http://your.parkland.edu/academics/departments/csit

November 5  TBA

November 12  Policy: City Government
Bill DeJarnette, Information Services Manager, City of Urbana
http://www.city.urbana.il.us/urbana/

November 19  Policy: The State of Illinois and BTOP
Ryan Croke, Policy Advisor to Governor Pat Quinn
http://broadband.illinois.gov/