

# INTS 4391: Senior Seminar – Digital Culture Fall 2018



**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Miller

**Email:** jennifermiller@uta.edu

**Course Information:** MWF 10:00 – 10:50; meets in COBA 150

**Office/Hours:** 525 Carlisle Hall, MWF 11:00 – 12:00 or by appointment

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## Course Description

This course introduced students to digital culture through course readings, lectures, and discussions. Additionally, students learn to contribute original and significant interdisciplinary work to the field of digital culture.

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## Course Goals

Engage intellectually with a complex cultural phenomenon • Judge the relevance of disciplines, interdisciplines, or applied fields to understanding a complex cultural phenomenon • Identify, comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and communicate interdisciplinary understanding of complex cultural phenomenon • Use scholarly ideas properly (with proper citation, without plagiarizing, without misrepresenting) • Communicate effectively in speaking, writing, and using technology • Contribute to field of digital culture with a unique argument, contribution, or creative project

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## Course Texts

Vincent Miller's *Understanding Culture*

Limor Shifman's *Memes*

Gina Neff and Dawn Nafus's *Self-Tracking*

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## Course Assignments

**Exam:** The exam covers all readings, lectures, and discussions discussed during the first eight-weeks of class. It consists of 30 multiple choice questions to be completed in class and short answer as well as essay questions to be completed at home.

**Digital Story and Reflection:** Students create a 3 – 5-minute digital story about an issue of significance to them. These are used to raise awareness about a variety of issues (mental health, ability/disability, gender

and sexuality, class immigration, ext.) and will be part of a public class blog. We will discuss and work out details as a class.

*Research Proposal:* Research Proposals must adhere to guidelines available on Blackboard. If your project is not approved, you must revise until it is approved.

*Annotated Bibliography:* Annotated bibliographies must adhere to guidelines available on Blackboard.

*Research Paper/Project:* Students are encouraged to complete a traditional research project; however, you may propose an alternative project if it is both interdisciplinary and related to digital culture. If you are proposing an alternative project you must explain its significance to you, its relevance to digital culture, and how you will engage interdisciplinary methods and methodologies.

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| Exam                         | 30% |
| Digital Story and Reflection | 20% |
| Research Proposal            | 10% |
| Annotated Bibliography       | 10% |
| Research Paper               | 30% |

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### Classroom and University Policies

*Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:* Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 7-10 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc. You will read approximately 80 pages a week during the first 8-weeks of the semester.

*Late Enrollment Policy:* Though I realize that sometimes enrolling in a course after the start date is unavoidable, please be advised that you will be held responsible for the class periods that you have missed even if you were not enrolled in the course. I will not allow you to make up attendance, missed opportunities for participation points, or any other assignments that occurred before you enrolled. If you enroll in class after the start date it is your responsibility to contact your peers to get caught up on the schedule and any announcements that might have been delivered in your absence. This policy also applies to students who drop and add.

*Late Assignments:* Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date specified. Assignments turned in after the class has begun will receive a ten-point deduction unless the instructor has agreed to late submission *in advance of the due date*. Late work will not be accepted without written documentation (jury summons, doctor's note, military req, etc.) If you must be absent, your work is still due on the assigned date. It is your responsibility to deposit your work in my box or have a peer turn it in for you.

*Participation Policy:* Improvement in writing is a complex process that requires a great deal of practice. Successful college students come to class and participate regularly. Excused absences include official university activities, military service, and/or religious holidays. Students must inform the instructor in writing at least one week in advance of an excused absence. I will not supply what you miss by email or

phone. It is your responsibility to conference with a peer to get this material or make an appointment to see me in person.

I have developed the following policy for this course: Students are given 100 participation points at the beginning of the semester but may lose up to (5) points daily if they fail to participate in class. Participation includes being in class on time, having all necessary materials, and being thoughtfully engaged in activities and discussions.

*Classroom Etiquette:* Class sessions are short and require your full attention. All cell phones, pagers, iPods, MP3 players, laptops, and other electronic devices should be *turned off and put away when entering the classroom unless the instructor asks you to use them for a class activity or writing workshop*; all earpieces should be removed. Store newspapers, crosswords, magazines, bulky bags, and other distractions so that you can concentrate on the readings and discussions each day. Bring book(s) and cluster readings (heavily annotated and carefully read) to every class. Students are expected to participate respectfully in class, listen to other class members, and to comment appropriately. I also expect consideration and courtesy from students. Professors are to be addressed appropriately and communicated with professionally.

According to *Student Conduct and Discipline*, "students are prohibited from engaging in or attempting to engage in conduct, either alone or in concert with others, that is intended to obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with, or that in fact obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any instructional, educational, research, administrative, or public performance or other activity authorized to be conducted in or on a University facility. Obstruction or disruption includes, but is not limited to, any act that interrupts, modifies, or damages utility service or equipment, communication service or equipment, or computer equipment, software, or networks" (UTA Handbook or Operating Procedures, Ch. 2, Sec. 2-202). *Students who do not respect the guidelines listed above or who disrupt other students' learning may be asked to leave class and/or referred to the Office of Student Conduct.*

*Classroom Visitors:* Only students officially enrolled in this section can attend class meetings. Students may not bring guests (children, spouses, friends, family) to class unless an academic request has been submitted and approved by the instructor well in advance of the proposed class visit. Children are not allowed in class as visitors at any time.

*Academic Integrity:* All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. *Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.* "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give

unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2).

You can get in trouble for plagiarism by failing to correctly indicate places where you are making use of the work of another or colluding with another to prepare assignments. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the conventions of citation by which you indicate which ideas are not your own and how your reader can find those sources. Read your textbook and/or handbook for more information on quoting and citing properly to avoid plagiarism. If you still do not understand, ask your instructor. All students caught plagiarizing or cheating will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

*Disability Accommodations:* UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center, Room 411 in the Central Library, offers tutoring for any writing you are assigned while a student at UT-Arlington. You may register and schedule appointments online at [uta.mywconline.com](http://uta.mywconline.com) or by visiting the Writing Center. If you need assistance with registration, please call 817-272-2601 during regular business hours. If you come to the Writing Center without an appointment, you will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis as consultants become available. Writing Center consultants are carefully chosen and trained, and they can assist you with any aspect of your writing, from understanding an assignment to revising an early draft to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an editing service; consultants will not correct your grammar or rewrite your assignment for you, but they will help you become a better editor of your own writing. I encourage each of you to use the Writing Center.

*Library Research Help.* UT Arlington Library offers many ways for students to receive help with writing assignments: Students have access to research guides that assist students with required research. To access the guides, go to <http://libguides.uta.edu>. Search for the course number in the search box located at the top of the page. The research guides direct students to useful databases, as well as provide information about citation, developing a topic/thesis, and receiving help. Other helpful information may be found at links provided below:

Library Home Page ..... <http://www.uta.edu/library>  
Subject Guides ..... <http://libguides.uta.edu>

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| Subject Librarians.....          | <a href="http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php">http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php</a> |
| Database List.....               | <a href="http://www.uta.edu/library/databases/index.php">http://www.uta.edu/library/databases/index.php</a>                 |
| Course Reserves.....             | <a href="http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do">http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do</a>             |
| Library Catalog.....             | <a href="http://discover.uta.edu/">http://discover.uta.edu/</a>   |
| E-Journals.....                  | <a href="http://liblink.uta.edu/UTAlink/az">http://liblink.uta.edu/UTAlink/az</a>   |
| Library Tutorials.....           | <a href="http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php">http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php</a>                   |
| Connecting from Off- Campus..... | <a href="http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus">http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus</a>   |
| Ask A Librarian.....             | <a href="http://ask.uta.edu">http://ask.uta.edu</a>   |

*Student Support Services:* UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

*Non-Discrimination Policy:* The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).

*Title IX Policy:* The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).

*Campus Carry:* Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

*Electronic Communication Policy.* All students must have access to a computer with internet capabilities. Students should check email daily for course information and updates. I will send group emails through Blackboard. I am happy to communicate with students through email. However, I ask that you be wise in your use of this tool. Make sure you have consulted the syllabus for answers before you send me an email. Remember, I do not monitor my email 24 hours a day. I check it periodically during the school week and occasionally on the weekend.

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned

MavMail account. *Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.* Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

*Turning in Assignments to Blackboard:* Assignments submitted to Blackboard must be saved as a .doc or .docx file to ensure that I am able to open them on my computer. It is your responsibility to ensure that your work is saved in this way and submitted in the correct format. If you submit work that is unreadable (i.e. corrupt) or incorrectly formatted, you will receive a zero for the assignment.

*Conferences and Questions:* I have regularly scheduled office hours each week. This time is reserved for students to drop by or to make an appointment to discuss course assignments, grades, or other class-related concerns. I will be happy to make other appointment times for you if your class schedule conflicts with regular conference times or if I am not available on certain days. If you receive a grade on an assignment which you have questions about, please wait twenty-four hours before discussing it with me. This gives you time to process the assignment comments and to think about how your course work meets the requirements set forth for each assignment. I do not discuss individual student issues in the classroom before, during or after class.

*Emergency Exit Procedures:* Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exits, located on the east and west sides of the building. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will arrange to assist handicapped individuals.

*Student Feedback Survey:* At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

*Drop Policy:* Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if he or she does not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing.

*Syllabus and Schedule Changes:* Instructors try to make their syllabuses as complete as possible; however, during the course of the semester I may be required to alter, add, or abandon certain policies/assignments. Instructors reserve the right to make such changes as they become necessary.

## Course Calendar

| Dates                   | Classwork                                     | Homework   |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Wednesday, August 22    | Introductions and Syllabus                    |  |
| Friday, August 24       | <b>No Class</b>                               | Read <i>Understanding Digital Culture</i> pp. 1 – 9 (Introduction)                 |
| Monday, August 27       | Lecture/Discussion Introduction and Chapter 1 | Read <i>Understanding Digital Culture</i> pp. 12 – 45 (Chapter 1)                  |
| Wednesday, August 29    | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 2                  | Read <i>Understanding Digital Culture</i> pp. 46 – 71 (Chapter 2)                  |
| Friday, August 31       | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 3                  | Read <i>Understanding Digital Culture</i> pp. 72 – 94 (Chapter 3)                  |
| Monday, September 3     | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 4                  | Read <i>Understanding Digital Culture</i> pp. 95 – 109 (Chapter 4)                 |
| Wednesday, September 5  | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 5                  | Read <i>Understanding Digital Culture</i> pp. 111 – 133 (Chapter 5)                |
| Friday, September 7     | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 6                  | Read <i>Understanding Digital Culture</i> pp. 134 – 158 (Chapter 6)                |
| Monday, September 10    | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 7                  | Read <i>Understanding Digital Culture</i> pp. 159 – 183 (Chapter 7)                |
| Wednesday, September 12 | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 8                  | Read <i>Understanding Digital Culture</i> pp. 184 – 206 (Chapter 8)                |
| Friday, September 14    | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 9 and Conclusion   | Read <i>Understanding Digital Culture</i> pp. 207 – 227 (Chapter 9 and Conclusion) |
| Monday, September 17    | Lecture/Discussion Chapters 1, 2, and 3       | Read <i>Memes</i> pp. 1 – 37 (Ch. 1, 2, and 3)                                     |
| Wednesday, September 19 | Lecture/Discussion Chapters 4 and 5           | Read <i>Memes</i> pp. 38 – 64 (Ch. 4 and 5)  |
| Friday, September 21    | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 6                  | Read <i>Memes</i> pp. 65 – 99 (Ch. 6)  |
| Monday, September 24    | Lecture/Discussion Chapters 7 and 8           | Read <i>Memes</i> pp. 99 – 150 (Ch. 7 and 8)                                       |
| Wednesday, September 26 | Lecture/Discussion Chapters 9 and 10          | Read <i>Memes</i> pp. 151 – 175 (Ch. 9 and 10)                                     |
| Friday, September 28    | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 1                  | Read <i>Self-Tracking</i> pp. 1 – 36 (Ch. 1)                                       |
| Monday, October 1       | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 2                  | Read <i>Self-Tracking</i> pp. 37 – 68 (Ch. 2)                                      |
| Wednesday, October 3    | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 3                  | Read <i>Self-Tracking</i> pp. 69 – 104 (Ch. 3)                                     |
| Friday, October 5       | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 4                  | Read <i>Self-Tracking</i> pp. 105 – 134 (Ch. 4)                                    |

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| Monday, October 8      | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 5  | Read <i>Self-Tracking</i> pp. 135 – 166 (Ch. 5)                         |
| Wednesday, October 10  | Lecture/Discussion Chapter 6  | Read <i>Self-Tracking</i> pp. 167 – 192 (Ch. 6)                         |
| Friday, October 12     | Introduce Research Assignment   |   |
| Monday, October 15     | Spotlight on Researchers: Arditi (Digital Archives)                               | Study for Exam  |
| Wednesday, October 17  | Spotlight on Researchers: Miller (Digital Communities)                            | Study for Exam  |
| Friday, October 19     | Exam Review   | Study for Exam  |
| Monday, October 22     | <b>Exam</b>   |   |
| Wednesday, October 24  | Introduce Creative Project/View Digital Stories/Discussion about Politics of DS   |   |
| Friday, October 26     | Workshop: Scripting   |   |
| Monday, October 29     | Workshop: Research Topic/Proposal   | Work on Digital Story   |
| Wednesday, October 31  | Library Research Day  | Work on Digital Story   |
| Friday, November 2     | <b>No Class</b>   | <b>Digital Stories and Reflection Due</b>                               |
| Monday, November 5     | Workshop: Proposal  |   |
| Wednesday, November 7  | Workshop: Annotations   | <b>Proposal Due</b>   |
| Friday, November 9     | <b>No Class</b>   | Work on Annotations   |
| Monday, November 12    | <b>No class meeting – mandatory individual meetings (available between 10-12)</b> | <b>Citations for 5 sources and one full annotation (MLA or APA) Due</b> |
| Wednesday, November 14 | <b>No class meeting – mandatory individual meetings (available between 10-12)</b> |   |
| Friday, November 16    | <b>No class meeting – mandatory individual meetings (available between 10-12)</b> |   |
| Monday, November 19    | Workshop: Thesis/Outline  | <b>Annotated Bibliography Due</b>                                       |
| Wednesday, November 21 | <b>No Class - Thanksgiving</b>  |   |
| Friday, November 23    | <b>No Class – Thanksgiving</b>  |   |
| Monday, November 26    | Workshop: Troubleshooting   |   |
| Wednesday, November 28 | <b>No class meeting – mandatory individual meetings (available between 10-12)</b> |   |
| Friday, November 30    | <b>No class meeting – mandatory individual meetings (available between 10-12)</b> |   |
| Monday, December 3     | <b>No class meeting – mandatory individual meetings (available between 10-12)</b> |   |
|                        |   | <b>Final Paper/Project Due on University Scheduled Exam Day</b>         |

