Department of Communication and Culture

Communications Studies (COMS) 717.92 - Seminar 02
Technologies of knowledge production: Critical perspectives on web2.0
January 11 -April 11, 2012
Wednesdays 4.30-7.20pm, room SS 315

Instructor:	Dr. Sally Wyatt
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Additional Information

Sally Wyatt is a Killam Visiting Scholar in the department for the first four months of 2012. Dr Wyatt is Professor of Digital Cultures in Development at Maastricht University and Programme Leader of the e-Humanities Group of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences. Wyatt grew up in Canada and studied economics at McGill University before moving to England to do her master's degree. Previously, she has worked at the University of Amsterdam, University of East London and Sussex University, as well as for the UK Economic and Social Research Council. Wyatt has almost 30 years experience in teaching and research about technology policy and about the relationship between technological and social change. Recently, she has worked on the internet and social exclusion and the ways in which people incorporate the internet into their practices for finding health information, and on how digital technologies are incorporated into scholarly practices.

Course Description

In recent years, much attention has been given to the ways in which new applications of digital technologies (sometimes called social networking or Web 2.0 or crowd sourcing) enable more and better participation in the creation and production of knowledge across a variety of domains. This can include areas where citizens and fans have long participated such as politics, entertainment and cultural heritage, as well as those domains where the boundary between expert and amateur is more tightly guarded such as in art, medicine, science and scholarship.

Course Objectives

During this course, we will critically examine the notion of 'participatory knowledge production' in the digital age. We will draw on theoretical debates and empirical studies from communication and media studies as well as from sociology and from science and technology studies. Is participation distributed equally across social groups, cultures, countries or world regions? Is there evidence of changing relationships amongst and between experts and amateurs? How do software and hardware combine with social processes to structure participation? What happens to the invisible labour of those occupations such as sound engineers and copy editors? Are new forms of

invisible labour emerging? Does the nature of participation or of knowledge change if mediated by (different) digital technologies? Can 'participation' better be seen as the new (multi-directional) surveillance?

Internet and electronic communication device information

- Cell phones must be turned off and left in a bag during class.
- Laptops may be used only for the purpose of taking notes and looking up references and websites discussed during the class.

Textbooks/Readings

See Reading List below. Prior to the first meeting on 11 January 2012, read at least two chapters of either the book by Henry Jenkins or the book by Andrew Keen.

Assignments and Evaluation

- weekly reading, preparation & participation (30%)
- Week 6 - project proposal - students will be required to conduct empirical research in a domain of their choice in order to explore one or more theoretical question. Students will receive feedback on the proposal in order to help them prepare the final report due at the end of the course. (10%)
- Week 13 – oral presentation of final project (10%)
- Week 14 – written final project report (50%)

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.
Note: Please hand in your papers directly to your instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar's- scheduled exam: No

Policy for late assignments: At the discretion of the instructor, assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. You will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up any assignments or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca

Grading System - The following grading system is used in the Faculty of Graduate Studies:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4	Outstanding
A	4	Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.7	Very good performance
B+	3.3	Good performance
B	3	Satisfactory performance
		Note: The grade point value (3.0) associated with this grade is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program.
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
		Note: A student who receives a B- or lower in two or more courses will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average unless the program recommends otherwise. Individual programs may require a higher minimum passing grade.
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate
C-	1.7	level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate
D+	1.3	Studies course requirements. A student who receives a grade
D	1.0	of F will normally be required to withdraw unless the program
F	0.0	recommends otherwise.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (MacEwan Student Centre 4th floor,

efwr.ucalgary.ca) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Graduate Calendar at the following link:
http://grad.ucalgary.ca/files/grad/UC%20Graduate%20Calendar%202010-2011%20July%206-10.pdf

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts, see
www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/su

Graduate Students' Association

For details on the Graduate Students' Association, please see
http://www.ucalgary.ca/GSA/

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman, please see
http://www.ucalgary.ca/GSA/services/ombudsperson.html

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly Points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and assembly points, please see
http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as a part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see:

Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board (CFREB)
http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb

Reading List (more extensive list will be provided after first meeting in week 1)

Adams, S. (2010) 'Sourcing the crowd for health experiences: Letting the people speak or obliging voice

through choice?' In R. Harris, N. Wathen & S. Wyatt (eds) *Configuring Health Consumers*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

Bruns, A. (2008) *Blogs, Wikipedia, Second Life, and Beyond: From Production to Produsage*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing.

Collins, H.M. & Evans, R. (2002) 'The third wave of science studies: Studies of expertise and experience' *Social Studies of Science* 32(2): 235-96.

Dijck, J. van & Nieborg, D. (2009) 'Wikinomics and its discontents: a critical analysis of Web 2.0 business manifestos' *New Media & Society* 11(5): 855-874*.*

Ellis, R. & Waterton, C. (2004) 'Environmental citizenship in the making: the participation of volunteer naturalists in UK biological recording and biodiversity policy' *Science and Public Policy* 31(2): 95-105.

Jenkins, H. (2006) *Convergence Culture. Where Old and New Media Collide*, New York: New York University Press.

Keen, A. (2008) *The cult of the amateur: How Blogs, Myspace, Youtube And The Rest Of Today's User Generated Media Are Killing Our Culture And Economy,* Nicholas Brealey Publishing.

Proulx, S.et al (2011) 'Paradoxical empowerment of produsers in the context of informational capitalism' *New Review of Hypermedia and Multimedia*. 17(1): 9 - 29

Schedule of Lectures (to be reviewed in week 1, and maybe changed depending on student interest)
1. Introduction – review of topics, literature, course objectives and assignments
2. Technologies of knowledge production – historical & theoretical perspectives
3. Technologies of knowledge production – recent developments
4. Entertainment, popular culture and cultural heritage
5. Methodological challenges faced when studying internet practices Health & medicine
6. Health & medicine
7. Reading week
8. Student presentations of project proposals
9. Amateur & citizen science
10. Politics
11. Open source software development
12. GIS/tourism/travel
13. Student presentations of (almost) final projects
14. Reflection on implications of student projects for theoretical debates; evaluation of course