

INT198H–Computers and the Surveillance Society

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LEARNING COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

This learning community joins two disciplines, Computing and Film and Screen Studies, in the honors program. In combining computing practice with interpretation of narrative films about surveillance culture, the course will provide a survey and analysis of the data collection and surveillance opportunities enabled by pervasive networked computing and media structures that are integrated into all parts of modern life. Material from CIS 101 will provide a grounding to understand the ability of technology to collect, sort and retain indefinitely data collected from all aspects of modern society. Students will also master basic computing skills by completing a series of lab assignments in Excel, Web Design, and Programming. The Film and Screen Studies portion of the course will provide a theoretical introduction to how media culture and surveillance culture are intertwined, and through close readings of films that use surveillance as a theme, process how popular culture is making sense of a society increasingly defined by surveillance in a variety of forms. The course combines 3 credits in fulfillment of CIS101, and 3 AOK IV credits as a film studies elective.

This course requires that students bring a laptop to every class.

A Learning Community links courses and disciplines so that students and their professors together experience a coherent and enriched learning environment. Learning Communities provide an ideal setting for college students to:

- Acquire a deeper understanding of course materials by making connections between courses and disciplines;
- Develop a sense of responsibility for their own learning;
- Experience increased interaction among students and faculty, and a rich learning-centered community in and outside of the classroom;
- Participate in active and collaborative learning;
- Explore and understand diverse perspectives.

Introduction to Computing, or CIS101, introduces students to the essential knowledge required to achieve a well-rounded understanding of the explosive impact of the Internet and technology in all aspects of modern society. Computers are now the primary means of information retrieval, analysis and communication among individuals and organizations throughout the world. CIS101 provides students with the understanding of computer terminology, hardware, and software necessary to explore the resources of the Internet and exploit technology to its fullest on both a personal and professional level.

CIS TEXTS

Mark Ciampa, *Security Awareness: Applying practical security in your world*, Course Technology, 2nd or 3rd edition is fine

June Parsons et al. *New Perspectives on Microsoft Office Excel 2010*, Brief Edition, Course Technology, ISBN: 0538742925

Dwyer, Catherine, *JavaScript 101* will be available at on Blackboard

FSS TEXTS

Christian Parenti, *The Soft Cage: Surveillance in America from Slavery to the War on Terror*

Blackboard Reserve Readings

CIS SOFTWARE

Microsoft Office 2010 (for Windows) or Microsoft Office 2011 (for Mac). Pace students can download and install one copy of Office through this site:

<https://aspnetweb.pace.edu/adam/>

Download links for the following items are available on Blackboard:

- TextPad
- Nvu HTML Editor
- FTP Client to upload to Web site for Windows and Mac

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this class you will have obtained the following knowledge and technical skills:

- Be able to create multi-paged spreadsheets and use arithmetic and formatting functions
- Be able to create and maintain a personal Webpage
- Be able to write simple code using JavaScript
- Understand fundamental programming concepts
- Understand the basics of personal computer security, network security and trust and privacy issues in computing and technology
- Understand the mechanisms by which computer technology supports the collection, retention, and synthesis of personal data
- Understand the techniques and methods individuals can use to block surveillance and obfuscate the collection of personal data
- Understand basic concepts in Surveillance Studies and issues that arise in a Surveillance Society
- Be able to demonstrate in writing how popular media forms reflect and process the politics of surveillance

GRADING

In order to receive a grade you must complete all assigned homework and projects, and take both exams. The following assessments will be used to determine your grade:

Attendance and class participation	10
Homework (includes computing labs)	15
FSS Analytical Essay	15
Security assignment	10
Midterm	15
Final	15
Group project	20
Total	100

Grades will be based on the following percentages:

Rounded %	0 - 59	60 - 69	70 - 76	77 - 79	80 - 82	83 - 86	87 - 89	90 - 93	94 - 100
Grade Points	0.0	1.0	2.0	2.34	2.67	3.0	3.34	3.67	4.0
Letter Grade	F	D	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Attendance at all scheduled class sessions is mandatory. In addition, you are expected to come to class prepared with the correct text for that week's lab work. Please consult the assignments section of Blackboard for information on what text you will need to bring to class.

It is expected that you access the Blackboard site on a regular basis, to participate in any online discussion board assignments, carry out the readings and turn in assignments in a timely manner.

It is expected that you will participate actively by maintaining communication with the instructors via e-mail, submitting assignments according to due dates listed on the syllabus / assignment list, completing assigned readings as listed on the syllabus / assignment list, and responding promptly to requests/questions by your instructor

THE GROUP TERM PROJECT

You will work with a team of your classmates to create a Web site on a topic related to Computers and the Surveillance Society. The project will consist of a team effort where the group will choose a topic and design and build a multi-part Web site. More details about the specific requirements for this project will be distributed later in the semester.

Because this is a team project, a significant part of your course work and final grade will depend on the contributions of other people – as their grades and experience will depend on you. It is important that you conduct yourselves in a collegial and professional manner with your team mates to make sure that everyone will get the most out the team experience.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

Attendance in class is required as is participation in class discussion and activities. Regular online participation in the course is also required. Students may miss one class without affecting their grade. Any additional absence will lower your attendance/participation grade a full grade. Missing more than four classes will result in a failing grade in the course.

Student Conduct In Class Policy

Any acts of classroom disruption that go beyond the normal rights of students to question and discuss with instructors the educational process relative to subject content will not tolerated.

Electronic Devices In Class Policy

Cellular phones, pagers, CD Players, radios, and similar devices are prohibited in the laboratory facilities. Calculators and computers are prohibited during examinations and quizzes, unless otherwise specified.

Examination Policy

There will be 2 in-class exams, a midterm and a final. No make-up exams will be allowed without prior arrangements being made. Make-up examinations must be taken when scheduled.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

If a student believes that he/she has a disability that may affect academic performance, that student should notify Pace University's Counseling Center for assessment and advisement. If a student tells the instructor that he/she has a disability, the instructor is bound by University policy to notify the appropriate University representative of such disability.

Secondly, students must accept the responsibility to be honest and to request ethical standards in meeting their academic requirements. The Academic Integrity policy of Pace University states that it is unethical to plagiarize, to cheat on an examination, or to turn in work that is not yours. That means you **CANNOT COPY WORK FROM SOMEONE ELSE OR PRINT TWO COPIES OF THE SAME ASSIGNMENT TO BE HANDED IN BY TWO INDIVIDUALS**. Each student must do his/her own work. Students who fail to meet the responsibility for academic integrity

subject themselves to sanctions ranging from a reduction in grade or failure in the assignment in which the offense occurred to suspension or dismissal from the University.

It is easy for an instructor to tell when data has been duplicated between students. All instructors reserve the right to challenge work they feel has not been completed independently.

BLACKBOARD

The Blackboard online site has a button marked Assignments. Under this button you will find weekly folders that lay out each week of the course. It is your responsibility to access the Assignment information on a weekly basis and to keep up to date with all the course requirements.

Here is an overview of the material you will find in the Blackboard site:

ASSIGNMENTS

In each weekly folder in the Assignments button you will find descriptions of all reading and required assignments for the week.

If you are experiencing any emergency or other situation that prevents you from handing in work on time, your instructor needs to know about the problem prior to the due date for the homework or project. Please notify your instructor via e-mail.

FSS Response Papers:

Periodically you will be asked to provide a one-page single-spaced response paper to the assigned reading for that week. These papers will not be graded but will count as part of your overall homework grade.

FSS Essay:

You will complete one analytical essay combining the theoretical/critical material with interpretation of a film or films. Essays will be focused on exploring concepts in Surveillance Studies in combination with narrative and aesthetic analysis of cinema.

(5-6 pages) = 15%

Term Project

Working with your team, you will produce a Web site that features the elements of HTML and JavaScript that you have learned during the semester, as well written portions that represent the cultural and theoretical issues introduced in the FSS side of the course. This will be the final project for the course, and will be graded on the A, B, and C grading scale.

Examinations

There will be a one-hour hands-on exam on Excel. There will be a final covering Web Page Development (HTML), Introduction to Programming (JavaScript), and the Surveillance Society material and FSS readings and discussions.

COMMUNICATION

Your Pace Email account: You must use your Pace email account to communicate with your Pace instructors. Your CIS101 instructor will communicate with you via your Pace email account. It is your responsibility as a student to regularly read your email account and respond promptly to communications from your instructor. You also have the option of forwarding all email sent to your email account to a different e-mail account, for example, you can forward your email messages to a gmail or other email account that you read on a regular basis.

Email: You are welcome but not required to e-mail the instructor with problems and comments. All e-mail will be responded to promptly. Please be sure to **include your full name** in any e-mail you send your instructor. It is usually impossible to identify students solely based on their return e-mail addresses.