

DIGITAL DISCOURSE

Carmel L. Vaisman

2020-2021 Fall Semester

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Office Hours: by appointment

Short description:

The course offers an understanding of digital cultural issues through one of the key methods of interpretation in the humanities – discourse analysis – employing both a sociolinguistic and a critical perspective on the relationship between language and technology. In the first part, we treat digital environments as multimedia texts, examining the various linguistic and other semiotic resources that we use in order to accomplish social goals such as identity, community, and conversation. In the second part, we develop a critical sensibility to the discourses about technology, examining how they end up shaping technological objects and us as subjects. We shall exercise these skills on a wide range of case studies such as emoji, selfies, memes, trolling, Wikipedia, gaming addiction, algorithms and more.

Assessment:

Perfect attendance & in class group-work	25 %
Two group presentations in class	50 %
Critical Discourse Analysis written assignment	25 %

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unexcused absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized

materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.