

Media Theory - LMC-8000-JB
Proseminar in Media Theory
Instructor: Jay David Bolter (jay.bolter@lmc.gatech.edu)

Meeting: Thursday (12:30-3:15pm)

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In this seminar students will explore the key traditions of disciplinary and theoretical inquiry that contribute to the study of Digital Media, including design theory, literary-critical theory, visual culture and the cultural studies of media, communications theory, and performance studies. Students will examine key texts in each of these areas and explore their application to representative digital artifacts.

Course objectives

By the end of the course students will be able to

1. articulate the assumptions and methodologies characteristic of the multiple approaches to theory as listed above.
2. express their mastery of the theoretical texts by successfully completing the DM qualifying examination.

Course work

In addition to writing a research paper, students will participate in creating a bibliography all the materials that we read during the semester, together with a series of descriptive and interpretive notes. These notes will serve as study aids for the qualifying exam for this class and future classes.

Assignment

The principal assignment for the semester is to write an article or essay that engages with some topic in Media Theory, Media Studies, Science

Studies (in relation to Media), and so on. We will discuss the details in class. The final product should be a substantial piece of written work (4000 words or more) with the appropriate bibliography, illustrations, etc.. The length and exact nature of the writing will depend on the target audience for your article/essay: e.g. a particular research community, a particular journal in that community, a conference, etc.

There are 4 milestones:

September 22: Preliminary paragraph and outline of your paper (1-page).
Brief class presentation.

September 29: Revision of paragraph and outline based on (class) feedback

November 10: Substantial rough draft of paper.

Dec 11: Final paper due