Note: This syllabus may represent a past offering of this course and future course offerings may differ.

HCDE 505: Computer Mediated Communication

Instructor: Mark Haselkorn  
Quarter/Year: Autumn 2011  
Course Schedule: Tuesdays, 6 – 9:50PM

Course Description
This class is an overview of computer-mediated communication (CMC) as it applies to the increasing range of information and communication technologies. The goal of this class is to explore issues in Computer Mediated Communication and the role that it plays in collaboration, computer supported cooperative work, and the achievement of social life.

This course will situate information and communication technologies within a historical context, and we will look at older, text-based technologies as well as blogs, wikis, and cellphone-based text-messaging. The course also emphasizes the importance of understanding how sociality plays out with and through technology.

Grading and Assignments

Final Paper Assignment
• take one of your two response papers (or both if they fit together),  
• focus on what you see to be the key question, trend or issue,  
• incorporate comments from the online discussion board,  
• incorporate discussion from the in-class salon,  
• add relevant references from both class readings and outside readings,  
• add graphics as appropriate, and  
• write an 8 – 12 page paper that considers the history and context, current importance and future direction of your selected key question/issue regarding computer-mediated communication.

Response Paper Assignment

The goal of the response paper is to provide a summary and response to the readings scheduled for that day. When you sign up to do a response paper, you are agreeing to take responsibility for focusing a portion of the class discussion on that reading. The paper is an opportunity to highlight your perspective and critical knowledge.

Papers should have a provocative title, be between 1-2 pages long, and should accomplish two tasks. First, they should distill the argument of the reading in question. This summary should highlight important points and the scope of the argument. Second,
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the response paper should extract from the reading several questions or issues that are appropriate for class discussion. To be successful, questions should be open-ended and thought provoking. They can focus on one or several issues in the reading, and the questions should be substantive enough to generate extended discussion. Papers should also be well-written. Post your paper to the discussion board for comments and discussion. Start a new conversation for each paper.

In your paper, you may choose to highlight strengths and/or weaknesses in the reading. You may also choose to draw connections between readings and discussion from previous weeks. Alternatively, your response paper may also connect to material outside of class that you can introduce in the scope of class discussion. As you write your papers, keep in mind the focus of the class and the issues under discussion. While I have a fairly broad view of the course material, there are also specific questions we are confronting, and your paper should help us advance our consideration of these issues.

If you have any questions about the assignment or the reading for which you are responsible, please feel free to contact me.

Your Responsibilities:

- You will sign up for and post two response papers over the course of the quarter. Papers must be posted to the online Commonview by 6 pm Tuesday before the Thursday class.
- You will read all response papers before Thursday's class.
- You will post a comment on one or more of the response papers before class each week (unless you are responsible for a response paper that week). Post to the Discussion Board under the appropriate “conversation.” All comments must be posted by noon Thursday and read before class.

Grading for the response papers will follow this rubric:

- 3.0: For a paper that fulfills minimum requirements: Title, summary, reaction, questions; up to two pages/500 words; Bibliography includes the required reading(s)
- 3.5: For a paper that goes a bit beyond: Extension of the minimum requirements by adding an information graphic and additional references.
- 4.0: Wow: Essay is insightful, provocative, really cuts to the heart of the matter, embraces the issues, has excellent questions, etc.

Each response paper is worth 15% of the final grade. Comments are worth 10%.

Assignments and Grading

Following is an overview of the assignments and activities that contribute to your final grade. Details can be found in the Files section under "Course Materials."
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- Final Paper -- 40
- Two Response Papers -- 8 each
- Weekly Comments -- 10
- Presentations -- 4
- In-class Participation -- 10

Total of 80. Divide in half for final grade.

Course Schedule
Week 1
Thursday September 29: Course Introduction and Overview

Week 2
Thursday October 6:
Background and History of CMC; discussion of paper topics

Week 3
Thursday October 13: Older CSCW Environments

Week 4
Thursday October 20: Emerging CSCW

Week 5
Thursday October 27: Social Media

Week 6
Thursday November 3: Computer-Mediated Work (Guest Lecture: Keith Butler?)

Week 7
Thursday November 10: CMC and Games

Week 8
Thursday November 17: CSCW: Place, Space, and Mobility
Thursday November 24: Thanksgiving – No Class

Week 9
Thursday December 1: CMC, International Development, and Humanitarian Issues

Week 10
Thursday December 8: Online Representation and Privacy; Presentations