Course Description

As a component of the information revolution and globalization, cyber, in all of its manifesting forms - digital technology, the internet, cyborg (cybernetic organism), artificial life (AL), artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality, prosthetics, robotics and tissue engineering - has since 1989 rapidly emerged as a feature of contemporary politics. The cyber is subject to competing claims regarding its positive and negative impact on power relations and individual identities.

This course focuses on a variety of interpretative methods that are applied to cyber and cyberspace – communication theory, Marxism, feminism, postmodernism, posthumanism, international relations, identity theory, information theory, technological determinism, political economy.

The characterization of cyber and cyberspace as a new medium and its political significance will be emphasized. The course will examine the influence of “non-place” on democratic development, social power and interaction, as well as new identity formation.

Grade Assignment

Two sets of Seminar Presentation Questions 20%
Blog: (course website) 10%
Power Point Assignment: 15% Due Feb. 21
Essay (20 pages, 5000 words) 40% Due April 4
3-5 minute film or website with images & links that accompanies essay: 15%

Seminar Presentation consists of two discussion questions derived from the reading. The seminar discussion questions need to be posted on the Blog by
Tuesday @ 19:00. Each person is responsible for printing these out and bringing them to the seminar.

Blog – post: 1) seminar questions
2) observations/comments/musing (written, images, audio files) regarding issues relating to cyborgology.
Blogging can be done daily, weekly, randomly; all blogs are connected.

Power Point Assignment. Using one entry or article from CyberAnthropolgy [http://www.fiu.edu/~mizrachs/cyberanthropos.html](http://www.fiu.edu/~mizrachs/cyberanthropos.html) produce a 5 slide power point presentation which provides: 1) an evaluative summary of the entry or article’s main points, 2) a statement of the assumptions regarding AI (artificial intelligence), or AL (artificial life), or cyborgology, or DL (digital life), and 3) either a diagram topology of the cyber concepts used in the entry/article or an image slide of the cyber concepts. Slides 1 to 3: The main points of the article are clearly presented and critically evaluated; links should be provided to the same concepts on other web sources – another article, wikipedia, images, websites. Slide 4: A statement of the entry or article’s assumptions regarding AI, or AL, or cyborg, or DL. Slide 5: A diagram typology of relevant cyber concepts used in the entry or article – each concept should be linked to a web source that enhances it. If you wish to use images rather than a text diagram typology – this is fine. Images can be used in each slide; links can be used in each slide. It is fine if you use material from [www.ctheory.net](http://www.ctheory.net) and [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) as the linked web sources.
The assignment is to be posted both on your blog for the course and saved on your own course CD. Back-up the CD.

Essay Assignment. The aim of the essay is to critically engage course material on the topic of your choice relating to the politics of cyberspace and/or post-identity. A minimum of six texts on the course must be integrated into your essay.

Essay Film, Audio File, or Website
In addition a 3-5 minute film, or 3-5 minute audio recording/podcast, or website must accompany the essay. QuickTime is a good film finisher. Make sure it is processed and saved as DVD quality. The film can be shot as a nano-film on a mobile phone, PDA, or on a digital camera or video camcorder. The film, podcast or website is to be posted on your blog for the course and saved on your own CD.

Handing in assignments
Paper and course CD are to be handed in @ my office s644 Ross April 4 11:30-14:30. The CD needs to include: Seminar Presentation Questions, Power Point presentation, Essay and essay film, or audio/podcast, or essay website. Make sure that you put your name on the CD. Keep a back-up copy of the CD.
Late Penalty
2% will be deducted per class in which the paper is not handed in.
2% will be deducted per day in which the take-home is not handed in.

Books, eBooks & articles


McKenzie Wark. A Hacker Manifesto

Articles are on www.ctheory.net

Seminar & Reading Schedule

Jan.  3 Introduction

Jan. 10 Levinson. *Digital McLuhan* ______________ all

Jan. 17 Gray. *Cyborg Citizen*
www.routledge-ny.com/ref/cyborgcitizen/cycitpgs/tofc.html
Read this site in conjunction with the book
Ch.s 1-3, pp.9-54 ___________________________________________________________________ 1
Ch.s 4-6, pp.55-98 ___________________________________________________________________ 2
Ch.s 7-9, pp.99-142 ___________________________________________________________________ 3

Jan. 24 Gray. *Cyborg Citizen*
www.routledge-ny.com/ref/cyborgcitizen/cycitpgs/tofc.html
Read this site in conjunction with the book
Ch.s 10-12, pp.143-176 ___________________________________________________________________ 4
Ch.s 13&14, pp.177-201 ___________________________________________________________________ 5
www.ctheory.net access articles through ctheory.net search engine
Crandall, ‘Operational Media’
Winokur, ‘The Ambiguous Panopticon: Foucault & Codes of Cyberspace’_____ 6
Jan. 31  Kroker & Weinstein. Data Trash.
Ch.s 1&2, ___________________________________ 7
Ch.s 3&4, ____________________________________ 8
Ch.s 5&6, ____________________________________ 9
Epilogue, ______________________________________ all
www.ctheory.net  access articles through ctheory.net search engine
Murray, 'The Rhetoric of Life and Multitude' _________ 10
Harrell, 'Algebra of Identity'____________________ 11

Feb. 7  A & M Kroker. Life in the Wires
http://142.104.128.50/wires/screen1.html

Screens in the Wires:
Stephan Pfhol, 'Venus in Microsoft' ____________ 12
Charles Mudede, 'From Robodad to Biotech Bitch'__________ 13
Mirilo tattarini, 'Digital Media and the Electronic Schism'_______ 14
www.ctheory.net  access articles through ctheory.net search engine
Miller, 'Material Memories: Time and the Cinematic Image'_________ 15
Kroker, 'The Image Matrix' _____________________________ 16
Cox, 'Speed Ramping'__________________________________ 17
Milutis, 'Making the World Safe for fashionable Philosophy'______ 18
Thacker, 'Biophilosophy for the 21st Century' ________________ 19
Krokers, 'I Was Seduced by 48 Robots in a Metallic Arena__________ 20

Feb. 21  A&M Kroker, Life in the Wires
http://142.104.128.50/wires/music1.html

Music in the Wires
Dj Spooky
ReMix History
Scanner
Steve Gibson Virtual DJ
Jackson 2Bears
Bo Vibe
Tom Kuo
Art Museum: Multi-media Arts
www.ctheory.net  access articles through ctheory.net search engine
Vannini, 'Cardboard Resistance: Deconstructed Rock and the Politics of Authenticity' _________________ 21
Hegarty, 'Full With Noise: Theory and Japanese Noise Music' _______ 22
Vibe, 'Go With the Flow'_____________________________ 23
D.J. Spooky, 'Brazil 2002'______________________________ 24
Betancourt, 'The Aura of the Digital'____________________ 25
CTheory Live Interview with DJ Spooky
http://www.pactac.net/pactacweb/web-content/video33.html
CTheory Music in the Wires
http://www.pactac.net/pactacweb/web-content/video22.html
(view Steve Gibson, Paul Hegarty, Jackson 2Bears)
Feb. 28  A&M Kroker, Life in the Wires
http://142.104.128.50/wires/politics1.html

Politics in the Wires
Critical Art Ensemble
Surveillance Camera Players

www.ctheory.net  access articles through ctheory.net search engine

Dennis, 'Priming the Pump of War' ........................................ 26
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Thacker, ‘Networks, Swarms, Multitudes’ ............................ 28
Dennis, ‘Policing the Convergence of Virtual and Material Worlds’ 29
Nunn, ‘Information Feeds to the War on Terror’ ....................... 30
Baudrillard, ‘The Mask of War’ ........................................... 31
Adams, ‘Denaturalizing Natural Disaster’ .............................. 32

Mar. 7  A&M Kroker, Life in the Wires
http://142.104.128.50/wires/gender1.html

Gender in the Wires
Donna Haraway
OBN cyber-feminist alliance
Acker, ‘Language of the Body’

www.ctheory.net  access articles through ctheory.net search engine

Smith-Windsor, ‘The Cyborg Mother …’ ................................. 34
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Wilding, ‘Tech Flesh 7: Vulvas with a Difference’ .................... 36
Harrell, ‘Algebra of Identity’ ............................................. 37
Kroker, ‘Born Again Ideology’ .......................................... 38

CTTheory Lecture – Mary Bryson
‘When Jill Jacks in . . . Queer Virtualities and the Politics of Mis/Recognition’
http://www.pactac.net/pactacweb/web-content/video55.html

Mar. 14  A & M, Kroker, Life in the Wires
http://142.104.128.50/wires/post1.html

PostHumanism in the Wires
Steve Mann
Stelarc
Eduardo Kac
Human Genome Project
Future Physical
The AI Laboratory
The Visible Human Server
Gargett, ‘Deprograming the Body’ .................................... 39
Betancourt, ‘Disruptive Technology’ ................................... 40

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Mann, ‘The Post-Cyborg Path to Deconism’ ________________ 42
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Armitage, ‘Beyond Postmodernism?’ ________________________ 45
CTheory Live Interview with Donna Haraway
http://www.pactac.net/pactacweb/web-content/video33.html
CTheory Live Interview with Katherine Hayles
http://www.pactac.net/pactacweb/web-content/video44.html
CTheory Live Interview with Stelarc
http://www.pactac.net/pactacweb/web-content/video44.html

Mar. 21 A & M, Kroker, Life in the Wires
http://142.104.128.50/wires/art1.html
Art in the Wires
Orlan
Ctheory Multimedia
Ted Hiebert
Uncomfortable Proximity
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http://www.ctheory.net access articles through ctheory.net search engine
Murry, ‘Digital Incompossibilty: Cruising The Aesthetic Haze of the New Media’ __________ 47
Munster, ‘Digitality: Aproximate Aesthetics’ _________________ 48
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Rosen, ‘Art at the Event Horizon’ ____________________________ 51
Clarke, ‘Stelarc’s Prosthetic Head’ __________________________ 52
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Stelarc
www.stelarc.va.com.au

The Tissue Culture and Art Project
www.tca.uwa.edu.au
Publications
Catts and Zurr, ‘Towards A New Class of Being: The Extended Body’ ______ 55
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Zurr and Catts, ‘The Ethical Claims of Bio Art: Killing the Other or Self-Cannibalism?’ _________ 57
Ken Rinaldo
http://kenrinaldo.com/
Check out the digital petals: art, exhibitions & links
Also: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Rinaldo

Biokino – The Living Screen
www.Biokino.net

Mar. 28  Wark, *A Hacker Manifesto*
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