

**COURSE TAUGHT FALL 2017
CYBER FEMINISMS, UTSA
SARAH MONTOYA, INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD**

Course Description

“Another thrust of my writing is to look at who constructs knowledges, realities, and information and how they control people’s identities through that construction...What was of concern to [previous generations] was the patrón – was he going to fire them or not pay them? My patrones now are the cyberspace corporations that are like the new elite, the new power mongers.”



Gloria Anzaldúa, from *Interviews/Entrevistas*

“It was precisely this erasure of the social and institutional elements that helps us imagine technologies as neutral. Because we drew the boundaries around a technology at its metal or digital edges, we could not see how its affordances were crystallizations of social arrangements.”

Tarleton Gillespie, “The Stories Digital Tools Tell”

Online social networks are proving a rich field for considering the ways in which technology has altered the organization of communities and communication alike. Yet what was once hailed as a space of infinite potential is strangely familiar – embedded with dominant ideologies and rhetoric, increasing corporatization, and intense consumer surveillance. The First World is preoccupied with technological advancement, but what liberatory potential rests in the “master’s tools” and what are its boundaries? This course utilizes women of color feminisms and queer of color critique to interrogate digital technologies and their attendant infrastructures. We begin by tracing the development of computer technology in the United States and consider a variety of topics, including the roles women have played in the development and theorization of technologies, the political implications of search engines and data organization, and the shifting role of the cyborg in feminist writings on technology. By utilizing women of color feminisms and queer of color critique, we seek to expand cyber feminist discourses and analyze the representation of digital cultures and technologies in popular culture.

Special Topics: Cyber Feminisms

| Week 1 | | Course Introduction | |
|--------|------|--|--|
| T | 8/22 | Introduction to Course | |
| R | 8/24 | Lecture: “Hello, World!”: Welcome to the World Wide Web Readings:  Janet Abbate, from <i>Inventing the Internet</i>  See: The Computer History Museum | |

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| Week 2 | | WT" F": Women Theorizing Feminisms |
|--------|------|---|
| T | 8/29 | (Cyber)feminism 1.0 Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 <u>VNS Matrix: Cyber Feminist Manifesto</u> (1991) 📖 Sadie Plant, Excerpt from <i>Zeros and Ones: Digital Women and the New Technoculture</i> (1997) |
| R | 8/31 | Lecture: Women of Color Feminisms and Intersectionality Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 "Theory in the Flesh" from <i>This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color</i> (1981) 📖 Audre Lorde, "Age, Race, Class and Sex" from <i>Sister Outsider</i> (1984) 📖 Kimberlé Crenshaw, Excerpt from "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color," (1991) |

| Week 3 | | Feminisms, Genders, and Sexualities |
|--------|-----|--|
| T | 9/5 | Lecture: Colonialism, Gender, and Sexuality Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Roderick Ferguson, from <i>Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique</i> (2004) 📖 Video: "<u>Settler Sexualities</u>," Kim Tallbear (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate) (Approx. 30) |

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| | R | 9/7 | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Judy Wajcman, from <i>TechnoFeminism</i> (2004) |
|--|---|-----|--|

| Week 4 | | Consensual Hallucinations: The Cyberspace Cannon | |
|--------|---|--|---|
| | T | 9/12 | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 William Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i> (1984) 📖 Jeff Prucher, <i>Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction</i> (2004) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cyberspace |
| | R | 9/14 | Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 William Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i> (1984) 📖 Jeff Prucher, <i>Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction</i> (2004) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cyberpunk |

| Week 5 | | Consensual Hallucinations: The Cyberspace Cannon | |
|--------|---|--|--|
| | T | 9/19 | Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 William Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i> (1984) 📖 Jeff Prucher, <i>Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction</i> (2004) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cyborg |
| | R | 9/21 | NO IN-CLASS MEETING. Online assignment Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 William Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i> (1984) 📖 Jeff Prucher, <i>Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction</i> (2004) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hacker |

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| Week 6 | | More Human than Human: Representing the Cyborg | |
|--------|------|--|--|
| T | 9/26 | Lecture: Technology and the/in the Body Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Donna Haraway, from “The Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the late Twentieth Century” in <i>Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature</i> (1991) | |
| R | 9/28 | Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Chela Sandoval, Excerpt from “Re-entering Cyberspace: Sciences of Resistance,” (1994) | |

| Week 7 | | “More Human than Human:” Representing the Cyborg | |
|--------|------|--|--|
| T | 10/3 | 📖 Begin: <i>Bladerunner</i> (1982) | |
| R | 10/5 | 📖 Finish: <i>Bladerunner</i> (1982) | |

| Week 8 | | Blue Pill/Red Pill: Digital Lives and the Machine | |
|--------|-------|---|--|
| T | 10/10 | Lecture: From ARPANET to World Wide Web Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Martin Campbell-Kelly, et al. <i>Computer: A History of the Information Machine</i>. 2nd ed (2014) | |
| R | 10/12 | 📖 Begin: <i>The Matrix</i> (1999) | |

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| Week 9 | | Blue Pill/Red Pill: Digital Lives and the Machine | |
|--------|-------|---|--|
| T | 10/17 | Finish: <i>The Matrix</i> (1999) | |
| R | 10/19 | Finish Discussion over <i>Bladerunner</i> and <i>The Matrix</i> | |

| Week 10 | | Down the Rabbit Hole: Code and Design | |
|---------|-------|--|--|
| T | 10/24 | Lecture: Critical Code Studies Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Tara McPherson, "Designing for Difference" (2014) 📖 Micha Cárdenas from "net.walkingtools.Transformer." | |
| R | 10/26 | Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Wendy H. K Chun, from <i>Programmed Visions: Software and Memory</i> (2011) | |

| Week 11 | | Down the Rabbit Hole: Design and Manufacture | |
|---------|-------|---|--|
| T | 10/31 | Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Angela M. Hass, from "Wampum as Hypertext: An American Indian Intellectual Tradition of Multimedia Theory and Practice," (2007) | |
| R | 11/2 | Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Lisa Nakamura, from "Indigenous Circuits: Navajo Women and the Racialization of Early Electronic Manufacture," (2014) | |

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| Week 12 | | Down the Rabbit Hole: Interface and Information |
|---------|------|--|
| T | 11/7 | Lecture: Critical Algorithm Studies Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Lucas Introna and Helen Nissenbaum, from "Sustaining the Public Good Vision of the Internet: The Politics of Search Engines" (2000) |
| R | 11/9 | Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Safiya Noble, "Google Search: Hyper-visibility as a Means of Rendering Black Women and Girls Invisible," (2013) |

| Week 13 | | Down the Rabbit Hole: Critical Infrastructure Studies |
|---------|-------|---|
| T | 11/14 | Lecture: Who Owns the Internet? Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 FoxConn: Life and Death (2017) 📖 Cobalt Mining (2016) |
| R | 11/16 | Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 from <i>Signal Traffic: Critical Studies of Media Infrastructures (The Geopolitics of Information)</i> (2015) |

| Week 14 | | Big Brother: On the Surveillance State |
|---------|-------|---|
| T | 11/21 | Lecture: COINTEL PRO and Surveillance Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 From <i>Feminist Surveillance Studies</i> (2015) |
| R | 11/23 | THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY |

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| Week 15 | | FINAL PRESENTATIONS | |
|---------|-------|------------------------|--|
| T | 11/28 | IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS | |
| R | 11/30 | IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS | |

| Week 16 | | FINAL PRESENTATIONS | |
|---------|------|------------------------|--|
| T | 12/5 | IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS | |
| R | 12/7 | STUDY DAY, NO CLASS | |

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| Finals | Wed, Dec 13, 9:45 am – 12:15 pm | | |
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