Information technology has transformed the world. Information technology will usher in a new level of global understanding. The “insert your favorite technology here” will transform everyone’s lives.

If these statements sound familiar, it is because they have been applied to various communication technologies in previous eras. This seminar will examine the various claims made about the latest developments in communication technologies, the Internet and the attendant information economy.

The Seminar

The weekly meeting will enter around the discussion of week’s readings. This is not to say I will dominate the discussion and it is imperative that everyone come ready and prepared to discuss points that are important or that need clarification and unpacking. The give and take of a seminar may occasionally become contentious but courtesy and respect for all views will be demanded from all participants.

Evaluation Instruments

Weekly Reviews
There will be a series of weekly reviews of readings, save the first week and the final 3 weeks. These comprise 40 percent of the grade are intended to provide a) a review of the materials in a critical manner; b) develop a set of materials for doctoral comprehensive exams and lit reviews for MA thesis/Ph.D. dissertations and c) provide a gauge of your comprehension and development of your ideas on the topic.

Length - 3-4 pages maximum. Please be concise. Hit the high points and focus upon what you think are interesting or debatable points. I will be marking papers on the following criteria: a) clarity of ideas and writing; b) your engagement with the readings. These will be returned within one week with comments and questions for you to consider.

Research Paper
Seminar participants will produce a publishable-quality research paper on a topic of your choosing. This will be in the 24-30 page range, excluding references. Topics should be proposed 3 weeks into the course and reviewed with the professor. I am open to the idea of team or group papers if there is interest. These comprise 50 percent of the grade. Presentation of the research papers comprises 10 percent of the grade. Presentations will be the last meeting of class.

**Late Work**

With valid excuse (health related issues with documentation, family emergencies with prompt notification), you will have 4 school days (Monday through Friday) to turn in review papers.

**ADA Requirements**

If any student has a disability that has been registered with the office of Disability Services (ODS), please arrange for paperwork or email notification from ODS no later than August 30th and appropriate steps will be taken to accommodate your needs. I am committed to insuring that everyone in the class has an equal chance to succeed.

**Attendance**

I do not take attendance for a graduate course. At this level I do not expect this to be an issue. You know if you skip classes, your chances of earning an “A” drop as well. Your call.

**Reading for Graduate Seminars**

I do not expect you to read every word, but I demand a good faith effort to gain an understanding of the readings. Read for ideas, noting specifics of arguments to bring forth to the seminar.

**Tentative Topic and Reading List**

**August 23rd – Once upon a time there were a few geographers….Early efforts in communications and geography.**

**Required Readings**


**Optional Readings**


**August 30th – “That’s not geography.” Early thought on Geography and Cyberspace.**

**Required Reading:**


**September 6th – What is the Information Society?**

**Required Readings**


**Optional Reading**


September 13th - Theories of the Information Society.

Required Readings


September 20th – Student: My reaction paper is virtually ready…

Professor Purcell: What does virtually really mean?

Required Reading


September 21st – Reach out and touch anyone? : Communication and Scale.

Required Reading


Optional Reading


September 28th - Information Economies I – What Changes, What stays the Same?

Required Reading


**October 4th - Information Economies II**


**October 11th – Politics in Cyberspace – I.**


**October 18th – Politics in Cyberspace – II – Governance (No Required Class Meeting – Participants are HIGHLY encouraged to discuss the readings anyway at a venue of your choice. Leaders for the class will be selected.)**

**Required Reading**


**Optional Reading**


**October 25th Politics and Cyberspace – III**


Taylor and Burtt

November 1st – Geopolitics in the Internet Age - I


November 8th – Geopolitics in the Internet Age – II

Arquilla, J. and Ronfeldt,


November 1st – Internet Governance


**November 8th – Using the Internet for Resistance**


**November 15th – Gender, Identities, and Social Constructs Online – I**


**November 29th – Gender, Identities, and Social Constructs Online – II**


Student provided papers as well

**December 6th – Gender, Identities and Social Constructs Online – III and see below.**


Plus two student provided papers as well.

**To boldly go where everyone wants to go…the future(s) of cyberspace, the information economy and geography.**


**December 13th –**

Oral presentations of research papers.