

**GEOG 6220 – Seminar in Human Geography
Geographies of Cyberspace and the Information Economy
W 6:30 – 9:20 PM, SEC 668 (a.k.a. Bollinger Room)**

Dr. Darren Purcell

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Office Hours: TR 2:00 PM-5:00 PM W 8:30 AM- 11:00 AM MF – By appointment.	Office Phone – 325-9193 Home Phone – 253-4318 Email: dpurcell@ou.edu
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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 center 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 and 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

Abler, R. and Falk, T. (1981) "Public information services and the changing role of distance in human affairs." *Economic Geography* 57, no.1. p. 10-22

Hillis, K. (1998) "On the margins: the invisibility of communications in geography" *Progress in Human Geography* 22,4. pp. 543±566

Optional Readings

Falk T. and Abler R. (1985) "Intercommunications services: the development of postal services in Sweden." *Geografiska Annaler, Series B* 67, no.1. p. 21-28

Abler, R. and Falk, T. (1985) "Intercommunications technologies: regional variations in postal service use in Sweden, 1870-1975." *Geografiska Annaler, Series B* 67 B, no.2. p. 99-106.

August 30th – "That's not geography." Early thought on Geography and Cyberspace.

Required Reading:

Kitchin, R. (1998) "Towards geographies of cyberspace" *Progress in Human Geography* 22,3 (1998) pp. 385±406

Batty, M. (1997) "Virtual Geography" *Futures* 29:4-5. pp. 337-352.

Light, J.S. (1995) "The Digital Landscape: New Space for Women?" *Gender, Place & Culture*. 2(2) pp. 133-146.

Lievrouw, L. and Livingstone, S. (2002) Introduction:" The Social Shaping and Consequences of ICTs" in *The Handbook of New Media*. Lievrouw, L. and Livingstone, S. (eds.) pp. 1-15. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Graham, S. (1998) "The end of geography or the explosion of place? Conceptualizing space, place and information technology" *Progress in Human Geography* 22,2. pp. 165±185

September 6th – What is the Information Society?

Required Readings

Webster, F. (2002) *Theories of the Information Society (2nd Edition)* . Chapters 1 and 2. London: Routledge.

Optional Reading

Masuda (2002) (1990) "Image of the Future Information Society" in *The Information Society Reader*. Webster, F. (ed.) pp. 15-20. London: Routledge.

Leadbetter (2002) (1999) "Living on Thin Air" in *The Information Society Reader*. Webster, F. (ed.) pp. 21-30. London: Routledge.

Dyson, E.; Gilder, G.; Keyworth, G.; and Toffler, A. (2002) (1996) :” Cyberspace and the American Dream” in *The Information Society Reader*. Webster, F. (ed.) pp. 31-41. London: Routledge.

Winner, L (2002) (1996) “Who Will We Be in Cyberspace?” in *The Information Society Reader*. Webster, F. (ed.) pp. 45-54. London: Routledge.

Roszak, T. (2002) (1986) “The Cult of Information” in *The Information Society Reader*. Webster, F. (ed.) pp. 55-61. London: Routledge.

Robins, K. and Webster, F. (2002) (1999) “The Long History of the Information Revolution” in *The Information Society Reader*. Webster, F. (ed.) pp. 62-80.. London: Routledge.

September 13th - Theories of the Information Society.

Required Readings

Webster, F. (2002) Chapters 3-10 in *Theories of the Information Society*. London: Routledge.

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

Professor Purcell: What does virtually *really* mean?

Required Reading

Shields, R. (2003) *The Virtual*. London: Routledge.

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

Required Reading

Adams, P. (2005) *The Boundless Self: Communication in Physical and Virtual Spaces*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.

Optional Reading

Adams, P. (1992) “Television as Gathering Place” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. 82(1), pp. 117-135.

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

Required Reading

Schement, J.R. and Curtis, T. (1995) *Tendencies and Tensions of the Information Age: The Production and Distribution of Information in the United States*. New Brunswick, NJ. Transaction Publishers. Chapters 1 (The New Industrial Society) and 3 (Information Work.)

Ray, C. and Talbot, H. (1999) "Rural Telematics: The Information society and Rural Development" in Crang, M.; Crang, P.; and May, J. (eds.) pp:149-163. *Virtual Geographies*. London: Routledge.

Murphy, Andrew (2002) "The Emergence of Online Food Retailing: A Stakeholder Perspective." *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie* **93** (1), 47-61.

Taylor, M. and Murphy, A. (2004) "SMEs and e-business"
Journal of Small Business and Enterprise Development; 11, 3; pp. 280-289

Cobb, S. (2003) "Offshore financial Services and the Internet: Creating Confidence in the Use of Cyberspace?" *Growth and Change*. 34(2). pp. 244-259.

Couclelis, H. (2004) "Pizza over the Internet: e-commerce, the fragmentation of activity and the tyranny of the region." *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*. 16. pp. 41-54.

October 4th - Information Economies II

Zook, M (2005) *The Geography of the Internet Industry*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

October 11th – Politics in Cyberspace – I.

Chadwick, A. (2006) *Internet Politics*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

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

Chadwick, A. (2006) *Internet Politics*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. Chapters 5 through 8.

Optional Reading

Sunstein, C. (2001) *Republic.com*. Princeton University Press.

October 25th Politics and Cyberspace – III

Edwards, T. (2001) "Corporate Nations: the Emergence of New Sovereignties." in Leinbach, T. and Brunn, S. (eds.) *Worlds of E-Commerce: Economic, Geographical and Social Dimensions*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Tkach-Kawasaki , L.M. (2003) "Clicking for votes: Assessing Japanese Political campaigns on the Web." in *Asia.com: Asia Encounters the Internet*. London: Routledge. pp.159-174.

Taylor and Burt

Purcell, D. (forthcoming)

November 1st – Geopolitics in the Internet Age - I

Brunn, S.; Jones, J.; and O'Lear, S. (1999) "Geopolitical Information and Communications in the Twenty-First Century." in *Reordering the World: Geopolitical Perspectives on the 21st Century*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. pp.292-318.

Deibert, R. (1997) Selected Chapters from *Parchment, Printing, and Hypermedia Communication and World Order Transformation*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Spiegel, S.L. (2000) "Traditional Space vs. Cyberspace: The Changing Role of Geography in Current International Politics." *Geopolitics*. 5(3):114-125.

Brunn (2000) " Towards an Understanding of the Geopolitics of Cyberspaces: Learning, Re-learning, and Un-learning." *Geopolitics*. 5(3):144-149.

Brunn (1998) "A Treaty of Silicon for the Treaty of Westphalia? New Territorial Dimensions of Modern Statehood." *Geopolitics*. 3(1):106-131.

November 8th – Geopolitics in the Internet Age – II

Arquilla, J. and Ronfeldt,

Purcell, D. (2005) "The Military in the Noosphere: NCT Adoption and Website Development in the Slovenian Ministry of Defense" *Information, Communication and Society*. 8(2):194-216.

November 1st – Internet Governance

Chadwick, A. (2006) *Internet Politics*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. Chapter 10

Steinberg, P (2003) "Mutiny on the Bandwidth: the Semiotics of Statehood in the Internet Domain Name Registries of Pitcairn Island and Niue." *New Media and Society*. 5(1):47-67.

Steinberg, P and McDowell, S. (2003) Global communication and the post-statism of cyberspace: a spatial constructivist view. *Review of International Political Economy* 10:2. pp. 196-221

November 8th – Using the Internet for Resistance

Warf, B. and Grimes, J. (1997) "Counterhegemonic Discourses and the Internet." *Geographical Review*. 87(2):259-274.

Van de Donk, W.; Loader, B.; Nixon, P.; and Rucht, D.; (2004) *Cyberprotest: New Media, Citizens, and Social Movments*. London: Routledge. Chapters 1, 3,4,7

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

Van de Donk, W.; Loader, B.; Nixon, P.; and Rucht, D.; (2004) *Cyberprotest: New Media, Citizens, and Social Movments*. London: Routledge. Chapters 9, 11, 12.

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

Antonijevic, S. (2004) "From Nation to Virtual Community: The Ethnogenesis of Cyber Yugoslavia." Paper presented at the Association of Internet Researchers 4.0 Conference. Toronto, CA. www.aoir.org (members only access)[Accessed August 10, 2006].

Beckles, C (2001) "Black Liberation and the Internet: A Strategic Analysis" *Journal of Black Studies*. 31:3. Special Issue: Africa: New Realities and Hopes. Pp. 311-324.

O'Leary, S. (1996) "Cyberspace as Scared Space: communicating Religion on Computer Networks." In *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. 64:4. pp. 781-808.

Student provided papers as well

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

Madge, C., and O'Connor, H. (2006) "Parenting Gone Wired: Empowerment of New Mothers on the Internet?" *Social & cultural Geogrpahy* 7:2. pp. 199-220.

Huang, E. (2005) "The Acceptance of Women-Centric Websites" in *the Journal of computer Information Systems*. 45:4. pp. 75-83.

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.

Dodge, M and Kitchin, R. (2001) "Future Mappings of Cyberspace." pp.207-219. Student provided papers as well.

December 13th –

Oral presentations of research papers.