VISIONS AND VISIONSARIES OF THE NET

Dr. Yael Maurer

Spring Semester

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Office Hours:

By appointment

Short description:

Visions and Visionaries of the Net: Utopia and Anxiety in Cyberspace

This course examines the theoretical, literary and filmic responses to the early days of the Net. It explores the utopian and dystopian impulses that are at the heart of these representations which demonstrate both the joys and perils of an imagined cyber future. By probing both the promise and peril of the entry into the new cyberspace "enclave" as Fredric Jameson puts it, this course will attempt to show how our current experiences in cyber land are influenced and shaped by these early views of the Net. We will move from these early views of the cyber utopians to our present moment when these utopian and dystopian visions seem too close to home to be science fictional.

Assessment:

      Minor assignments:

      Two short oral presentations (20%)

      Mid Term:

      In class (15%)

      Final requirement:

      A final paper (6-10 pages): 65%

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an

exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements:

Keep phones turned-off while in class.