I625 Advanced Seminar I in Social Informatics  
Fall 2006

Instructor: Prof. Eden Medina  
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Seminar: T 11:15-1:30, Eigenmann 919  
Office Hours: M 3:30-4:30; W 11-12; or by appointment

Course Description
This seminar course will introduce Ph.D. students to the core literature and emerging scholarship in the field of social informatics. The seminars will provide the doctoral students with opportunities to examine and explore relevant and influential research literature, methods, and theoretical frameworks. Ideally, students will develop a profound intellectual understanding of leading research approaches and will design an independent research program in relation to their individual research fields and personal interests. I625 will concentrate on the social and cultural aspects of informatics as well as qualitative methods of research. This seminar will provide the foundation for future doctoral work in social informatics.

Goals:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
1) Identify the major theoretical frameworks used by researchers to study the social and cultural aspects of information technology.
2) Discuss the representative literature addressing the interplay of technology and society.
3) Apply the theoretical frameworks, themes, and critiques presented in class to a research project of their choosing or a series of critical essays.

Books at the IU Bookstore:


All other readings are available via oncourse or will be distributed in class.

**Recommended:**

**Assignments:**

This is a reading intensive seminar. Students must complete the readings prior to class and will be graded on class participation as well as on their written submissions. Students will submit one research paper twenty pages in length that applies the course material to a topic of their choosing. In addition students will lead selected class discussions. Additional details will be given in class.

**Topic List:**

**Week #1**  8/29
Introduction

**Week #2**  9/5
The Sociology of Scientific Knowledge (SSK)


**Week #3**  9/12 (class cancelled; readings will added to discussion on 9/19)
Social Construction


**Week #4  9/19**

Actor-Network Theory  


**Week #5  9/26**

History  


**Week #6  10/3**

Ethnography  

**Week #7  10/10**

Cyborgs  


**Week #8  10/17**

Technology and Identity  

**Week #9  10/24**

Policy  
Week #10  10/31
Surveillance and Normalization


Week #11  11/7
Situating Social Informatics


Week #12  11/14
Non-Western Perspectives


Week #13  11/21
Globalization


Week #14  11/28
Metaphors and Information


Week #15  12/5
Research Practice


The final paper is due Tuesday, December 12 by 5pm (Eigenmann 1035).
Further Reading:


