Information and Social Computing

IS10040
From Papyrus to Cyberspace:
Information and Society

Dr. Lee Komito
Semester 2, 2012-2013

Topics

● Introduction
● Information in social and historical perspective
● Types of communication systems: non-verbal, language, writing
● Electronic technologies
● New information and communications technologies
● Digital information: an information revolution?
● Information technology, information, and society
● Culture of information
● The post-industrial society
● Information and economic change
● The Information Society: definitions
● Information, politics, and the state
● Spatial policies: geography and technology
● Domestic and individual change
● Information technology, political change and community power
● Social change, migration and transnationalism
● Globalization and global culture
● The global information society: the pervasive Internet, social media, and virtual communities
● Digital divide and social exclusion

Description

This module introduces students to the general phenomenon of information generation, dissemination, and use in society, looking at broad perspectives and general trends. It focuses on the historical rise of the Information Society; the digital information revolution, the development of information technologies from writing to the Internet, the impact of information and information & communications technologies on individuals, groups, and society; and on conceptualisations and theories concerning the Information Society. Social, cultural, political, economic, and technological aspects of the role and significance of information in society are examined and discussed in this module. Students will learn how to create a digital video essay.
Outcomes

On completion of this module students should be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the role and significance of information in contemporary society.
2. Describe the historic rise of the Information Society.
3. Explain what is meant by the term Information Society, and demonstrate an understanding of Information Society theories and arguments.
4. Evaluate the impact of information technology on society.
5. Discuss the social, political, and cultural consequences of the digital information revolution.
6. Create a digital video essay.

Assessment

Assessment will be based coursework, tutorial work, and end of semester examination

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Video essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination 2 hour</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>End of Semester Exam</td>
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<td>Continuous Assessment</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>continuous</td>
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Readings (provisional)

Core Texts

- Miller, Daniel (2011) *Tales from Facebook*, Polity Press

Tutorial Readings

For assistance with tutorial discussions, choose readings from the following texts:

- Castells, Manuel. 2001. *The Internet Galaxy*
- Castells, Manuel. (1996)*The Rise of the Network Society*
Introduction

- May, *Chapter 1 *
- Chapter 2: The nature of information and knowledge
- Chapter 5: Communicating

Historical

- Komito, *Chapter 2 *
- Briggs, Asa and Peter Burke (2005) *A Social History of the Media*. Polity Press. Chapters 2, 3
- Chapter 2: The nature of information and knowledge [pages 11-41]
- Chapter 5: Communicating [pages 78-93]

Digital Revolution

- Komito, *Chapter 3 *
- Lyon, *Chapter 2 *
- May, *Chapter 2 *
- Roszak, *Chapter 2 *
- Burton, Paul F. *Information Technology and Society: implications for the information professions. Chapter 1*. [Gen]
A post-industrial society?

- **Webster, Frank.** *Theories of the Information Society, 3rd ed*, Chapter 3.
- **Komito, Chapter 5**
- **Lyon, Chapter 3**
- **Webster, Frank.** *Theories of the Information Society, 2nd ed.*, Chapter 3.
- **Webster, Frank (ed) (2004)* *The Information Society Reader*. London: Routledge. Part Two, pp. 81-132, including:
  - Melin, Harri, "Introduction". pp. 81-85
  - Bell, Daniel. "Post-industrial Society". pp. 86-102
  - Kumar, Krishan. "From Post-Industrial to Post-Modern Society". pp. 103-120
- **Miles, Ian; Gershuny, Jonathan.** "The social economics of information technology". *Information technology: social issues*, Finnegan, Ruth; Salaman, Graeme; Thompson, Kenneth. pp 209-224 [SLC, under Finnegan]

An Information Economy

- **Webster, Frank.** *Theories of the Information Society, 3rd ed.*, Chapters 4, 5, 6
- **Kling, Rob, ed.** *Computerization and Controversy: Value Conflicts and Social Choices*. Part III, IV [SLC]
- **Komito, Chapter 4**
- **Lyon, Chapters 3, 4**
- **May, Chapter 3**
- **Miles, Ian, et al.** *Information Horizons: the long-term social implications of new information technologies*. Chapters 3,4 [SLC]
- **Miles, Ian, et al.** "IT Futures in Households and Communities" *Information technology: social issues*, Finnegan, Ruth; Salaman, Graeme; Thompson, Kenneth (eds). [SLC]
- **Robins, Kevin, Webster, Frank.** "Dangers of Information Technology and Responsibilities of Education". *Information technology: social issues*, Finnegan, Ruth; Salaman, Graeme; Thompson, Kenneth (eds). [SLC]
- **Webster, Frank.** *Theories of the Information Society, 2nd ed.*, Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7

Information Society

• Webster, Frank. Theories of the Information Society, 2nd ed., Chapter 2.
• Webster, Frank. Theories of the Information Society, 3rd ed., Chapter 2, 10
• Information society Ireland : strategy for action / report of Ireland's Information Society Steering Committee. Ireland, Information Society Steering Committee. [SLC 303.483/IRE]
• Economic and Social Review special issue: Ireland, Europe and the Global Information Society.[SLC 303.483/ECO]
• Lyon, Chapter 4
• Martin, Chapter 4
• Forester, Tom. "Megatrends or Megamistakes? What Ever Happened to the Information Society. [SLC]
• Kling, Rob. "Reading `all About' Computerization: How Genre Conventions Shape Nonfiction Social Analysis." [SLC]

Politics and Government

• Webster, Frank. Theories of the Information Society, 3rd ed., Chapter 6, 7
• Komito, Chapters 6, 7
• May, Chapters 4, 5
• Kling, Rob, ed. Computerization and Controversy: Value Conflicts and Social Choices. Part V, VI [SLC]
• Lyon, Chapters 5, 6
• Roszak, Chapter 8, 9, 10
• Webster, Frank. Theories of the Information Society, Chapters 7, 8 (Habermas, Giddens)

Regional Policy

• Komito, Chapter 8
Individual Transformation, Social and Cultural Change

- Komito, Chapters 9, 10
- Miller, Daniel (2011) *Tales from Facebook*, Polity Press
- Roszak, Chapters 5, 6, 10
- Webster, Frank. *Theories of the Information Society*, Chapter 9