New Course Request

Indiana University

South Bend Campus

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit [X] Graduate credit [ ] Professional credit [ ]

1. School/Division CLAS
2. Academic Subject Code SOC
3. Course Number S240 Course ID: 042218 (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services)
4. Instructor Joshua Wells

5. Course Title Social Informatics

Recommended Abbreviation (Optional) (Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Spring 2009

7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from _________ to _________

8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes [X] No [ ]

9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes [X] No [ ]

10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication: **Introduction to key social research perspectives and literatures on the use of information and communication technologies. Discusses current topics such as information ethics, relevant legal frameworks, popular and controversial uses of technology (for example, peer-to-peer file sharing), digital divides, etc. Outlines research methodologies for social informatics.**

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from _________ to _________

12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at _________ or Variable from _________ to _________

13. Estimated enrollment: 30, of which _________ percent are expected to be graduate students.

14. Frequency of scheduling: every semester Will this course be required for majors? No

15. Justification for new course: Course has been taught as topics. It is a regular offering of the department that needs its own unique number.

16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes

17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.

18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant. **This course is joint listed with Informatics (1202) because it is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of technology & information. We are not trying to change the number for I202.**

19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: 

[Signature] Date 11/13/08

Department Chairman/Division Director

Dean of Graduate School (when required) Date 

Approved by:

[Signature] Date 

Dean

[Signature] Date 

Chancellor/Vice-President

[Signature] Date 

University Enrollment Services

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.

UPS 724 University Enrollment Services Final—White; Chancellor/Vice-President—Blue; School/Division—Yellow; Department/Division—Pink; University Enrollment Services Advance—White
This course considers the omnipresent role information and communication technologies (ICT) have come to play in human existence and how technological behaviors may be studied. We will learn how humans' very ancient need for cybernetic tools has affected social structures, definitions of humanity, and scientific practices involved with ICT creation and use. You will spend the bulk of the class engaging with professional scientific literature that broadly envelopes the ideas contained in social informatics, including anthropology, sociology, cognitive science, medicine, and science and technology studies. You will learn about research methodologies for studying ICTs as you critically analyze the effects of cultures, societies, sciences, politics, and economics on the modern ways that people are born, invent, reproduce, consume, and die immersed in technologies and human-built environments.

**Required Text:**
Sismondo, Sergio (2004)
*An Introduction to Science and Technology Studies*. Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA.

**Required Articles and Web Link URLs:**
Listed items are distributed through Oncourse Resources

**Course Resources:**
*Anthropology Resource Room, Wiekamp 2276; Social Science Resource Room, Wiekamp 2274.* These rooms have special computers to use as course resources, and DW 2276 contains other anthropology resource materials. Resource rooms are open Monday to Friday from 8:00am-4:45pm.
Course Requirements:

1. Read the textbook. The book contains 16 chapters. You are expected to be able to discuss the chapter corresponding to each school week by the start of class for that week.

2. Read required articles marked with "#" for each week. You are expected to be able to discuss the article marked with "#" by the start of class for that week.

3. Fifteen weekly written responses to our NON-REQUIRED (see 1 & 2, above) course readings must be submitted during the semester. These will be submitted through the Oncourse Assignments section before the first class of the week. Two submissions, for Weeks 1 & 2, are due in Week 2. Late submissions will not be counted. These are worth 20% of your course grade in total (each posting is worth 1.33% and will be graded pass/fail per the criteria below).

   Each written response must be at least 250 words long (equivalent to a single page, double-spaced). The topic of these postings is generally open, but must pertain to one or more readings for that week, and use terms and concepts from the readings.

4. Discuss the subject and presentation of the films and/or guest lectures we watch using terminology and concepts from your readings, class notes, and other activities. You must turn in 3 of these in total, each due within one week of the event described. Each paper should be at least 5 pages long, neat, double-spaced, 12 point font, typed papers. Each paper will have a separate cover page, and a separate bibliography page. These will be submitted through the Oncourse assignments section. These are worth 30% of your course grade in total (10% each).

5. Completion of two projects worth 50% of your course grade in total. Each project is individually worth 25%. Details on Project 1 and Project 2 are at the end of this syllabus.
Class is Subject to Change: This syllabus provides an outline of the plan for the semester and the expectations for students in this course. The instructor reserves the right to make any major or minor modifications or additions to the syllabus as needs arise through the semester. Changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and through the Oncourse web site. Students are expected to make themselves aware of changes when they occur and proceed accordingly.

ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT: It is the responsibility of the student to know of the prohibited actions such as cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, academic, and personal misconduct, and thus, to avoid them. All students are held to the standards outlined in the code. Please reference the entire Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct at http://www.dsa.indiana.edu/Code/. Any violation may result in serious academic penalty, ranging from receiving a warning, to failing the assignment, to failing the course, to expulsion from the University.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Any student who feels that an accommodation may be needed based on the impact of a disability should contact Disabled Student Services at 520-4832 in Room 120 of the Administration Building. Staff will work to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Accommodations for Religious Holidays or Observances: Any student who requires an absence from class, or a temporary extension for an assignment due to a religious holiday or other observance during this semester is requested to make their needs known to the instructor before the end of the second week of class.

Coursework Communication Policy: All electronic communication for this class must be conducted through IUSB email or the utilities available through the Oncourse site. The instructor will not send email messages to addresses that are not on the iusb.edu domain. Students are expected to frequently check their email and specified areas of the Oncourse site for course information.

Cellular Telephone, PDA, and Laptop Policy for Classroom: Cellular telephone use is not permitted during class; if you have an emergency need to retain contact, please turn the device to silent and leave the classroom if you must take an emergency call. PDA and laptop use is permitted for note taking; a zero-tolerance policy is in place for use of your PDA or laptop to message others, play games, or conduct any activity other than course note taking and any infraction will result in your inability to use any device in the classroom.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>START DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
</tr>
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| Week 1 |            | Introductions to anthropology, social science, and technology studies | # Downey "Cyborg anthropology"  
# Dumit "Cyborg anthropology"  
# Forsythe "Ethnography as invisible work"  
# Escobar "Welcome to cybersia"  
# Kling "Chapter 1" in Understanding and Communicating Social Informatics (access e-book through IUCAT) |
| Week 2 |            | Human evolution and technology | Van Schaik "Tool use in primates"  
# Johnson-Frey "What's so special about human tool use?"  
Clynes and Kline "Cyborgs and space" |
| Week 3 |            | Body augmentation | Schildkraut "Inscribing the body"  
Chany "Phone design ... extremity discomfort"  
Keating "Homo prostheticus"  
# Hogle "Enhancement technologies and the body"  
Hansson "Implant ethics" |
| Week 4 |            | Medical issues 1: medicalization | Sharp "Commodification of the body"  
Kaufman "Beginnings and ends of life"  
# Clarke "Biomedicalization"  
Davis-Floyd "Technobirth"  
Clarke "Many faces of RU486" |
| Week 5 |            | Medical issues 2: alternatives | Landzelius "Humanizing the imposter"  
Ong "Making the biopolitical subject"  
# Astin "Why patients use alternative medicine"  
Chih-Yin "Antibiomedicine belief" |
| Week 6 |            | Midterm project presentations | Mandatory attendance for all, both classes |
| Week 7 | Conservation | Bender "Signs of Cherokee culture"
|        |              | Lindauer "Resistance to conformity"
|        |              | Christensen "Inuit in cyberspace"
|        |              | Keating "ASL in virtual space"
|        |              | Forte "From smoke ceremonies to cyberspace"
|        |              | # Hakken "What carries culture in cyberspace"
|        |              | Doostdar "Culture and power in Persian weblogestion"
| Week 8 | Futurism     | Davis-Floyd "Bucky balls"
|        |              | Orbaugh "Sex and the single cyborg"
|        |              | Hamilton "Traces of the future"
|        |              | Fernbach "Fetishization of masculinity"
|        |              | # Franklin "Science as culture"
|        |              | Hutnyk "Hybridity"
| Week 9 | Militarism   | Donnelly "Long distance warriors"
|        |              | Umansky "Dull drones"
|        |              | AP "Military drones a la video games"
|        |              | # Gagliano "Soldier-cyborg transformation"
|        |              | Scales "Future warfare anthology"
|        |              | RAND "Army after next"
|        |              | RAND "Swarms"
| Week 10 | Built environment 1: planned? | Warren "Appropriating cyberpunk visions"
|         |              | Carey "The telephone hits the street"
|         |              | # Galloway "Ubiquitous computing and the city"
|         |              | Clarke "Role of built environment in disablement"
|         |              | Ito "Mobile phones, Japanese youth"
| Week 11 | Built environment 2: unplanned? | Davis "Planet of slums"
|         |              | Girard "City of darkness" (multiple)
|         |              | # United Nations "The challenge of slums"
|         |              | Neuwirth "Rio de Janeiro"
|         |              | Mitra "Minimally invasive education in India"
|         |              | Mitra "Slums.surfing.com"
|         |              | Rangaswamy "Internet cafes in India"
|         |              | Rangaswamy "Regulating India's digital public cultures"
| Week 12 | Waste        | # BAN "The digital dump"
|         |              | Nnorom "Ewaste Nigeria"
|         |              | Rogers "Conquest of garbage"
|         |              | Rogers "The waste stream"
|         |              | Johnson "Tsunami of electronic waste"
|         |              | Li "Modular formulation considering end-of-life issues"
| Week 13 | Electronic environment 1: work | # Hakken "Resocializing work"
Whitty "New rules in the workplace"
Haines "Better tools better workers"
Jacobs "My outsourced life"
Kulkarni "Outsourcing insights"
Palm "Outsourcing, self-service, telemobility"
Johnson "Social attribution toward computing technology"
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| Week 14 | Electronic environment 2: play | # Castronova "Real products imaginary worlds"
Castronova "Hedonic pricing model of avatar attributes"
Orleans "Children's computer use ... isolation or sociation"
Lin "Adoption of innovation with respect to the online game in Taiwan"
Hussain "Gender swapping and socializing in cyberspace"
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| Week 15 | Electronic environment 3: sex and families | Cooper "Sexuality on the internet"
Ross "Sexuality and the internet"
# Quinn "Describing sexual behavior in the era of the internet"
Waskul "Televideo cybersex"
Wilding "Virtual intimacies families"
Baldassar "Transnational families"
# Mesch "The family and the internet"
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| Week 16 | Finals Week | Final project presentations |
Project 1: Material Culture Log

This project involves an individual paper assessing your own material culture usage, and a group presentation of your findings as part of a team of your classmates. The total project is worth 25% of your final grade (20% for your written work plus 5% for your planning and participation in a successful presentation).

At some point during your day, begin keeping a list of every item of material culture that you are using at that moment. As you begin to use new items, write those down too. Continue doing this for one hour. By the end of the hour, you should have a rather long list (even if you haven’t moved at all, or are asleep, be creative). Use the list to create a prose description and analysis of your cyborg existence through hardware and software.

Investigate the biological, social, ideological, and personal aspects of the material culture around you. Which items perform biologically necessary functions, human-defined necessary functions (embody cultural values), social functions, and/or any combination thereof? How are your uses and definitions different from those of other people? How are these definitions made and enforced? By whom or what? What are the histories of these items and definitions in your life? You are expected to discuss the strengths and limitations of both hardware and software during this period (don’t forget processes that are running in your background).

Potential questions to consider: What different items did you use or see today that you normally do not? How did an item take on new meaning today? What symbolism or purpose is inherent in some everyday items in your life today that a social scientist would not know about without asking? That a designer did not intend? What might the items you utilized in social situations non-verbally communicate to others around you?

Use terms and concepts from the readings to bolster your observations about your own material culture use. NOTE: This project is not meant to be a natural history of particular items or software, this project should be a sociocultural analysis of what YOU are using, how, and why.

Minimum Requirements: 5 pages of text, per team member, neatly typed, double-spaced, in a 12 point font, with all quotations properly made, with all citations fully referenced in a complete bibliography. Each paper will have a separate cover page, and a separate bibliography page. You must also attach your original list of notes to the back of the assignment. Any way you and your group can augment your presentation will be welcome. Please discuss these with me as you plan your project.
Project 2: Literature review of social science of information and communication technology

This project involves individual and group work on a particular aspect of information and communication technology. You will write an individual paper assessing library research you have conducted, and help present a group presentation of your findings as part of a team of your classmates. The total project is worth 25% of your final grade (20% for your written work plus 5% for your planning and participation in a successful presentation).

Your group will choose an appropriate aspect of technological behavior, and each group member will find a series of at least 3 complementary professional studies on the topic, and write a report on it. Because social informatics can be such a broad topic, I expect each group to submit a 1 page proposal for your project by week 9 and each individual to submit a rough draft during week 12. The rough draft must be minimally 2 pages of text (not counting title page, pictures, diagrams, and references), and it should be neatly typed, double-spaced, in a 12 point font, with all quotations properly made, with all citations fully referenced in a complete bibliography.

The final paper must be minimally 5 pages of text with the same specifications. Each final paper will have a separate cover page, and a separate bibliography page.

Your work should incorporate the definitions and theories of our readings and class discussions to assess the use of normative, analytical, and critical orientations in each study you present. The report should contain the following sections at about a page each for a minimum: (1) Introduction to the topic discussed in your studies and the general theme of each; (2, 3, 4) A minimum one-page synopsis of each study’s subject, methodology, and findings; (5) An evaluation of social informatics practice in this series of studies, including a statement on how you think future efforts should be focused on that topic.

Each individual’s final project paper is due at the beginning our last class during week 16.

During finals week, when we would normally have an exam, your group will present a summary of its findings to the rest of the class. Any way you and your group can augment your presentation will be welcome. Please discuss these with me as you plan your project.