

SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY AND ART HISTORY AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES CENTRE

MODULE DESCRIPTION – YEAR 2021-22

MODULE CODE AND TITLE	CS220-4-AU - Navigating the Digital World		
MODULE TERM	Autumn	CREDITS	15

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ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN			
ASSESSMENT TYPE	% Of Overall Module	Deadline Week	Deadline Date
Digital Portfolio	100%	Week 16	Wednesday, 19 Jan 22

LISTEN AGAIN AVAILABILITY	Listen Again is available for the seminars/classes
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1. MODULE OUTLINE

What does it mean to be a "digital citizen"? As increasing portions of our personal and professional lives are played out online, acquiring the ability to effectively use digital interfaces and think critically about them is an ever more urgent task, as well as a topic of fierce debate. While some allege that digital technologies are a root cause of a "post-fact" era filled with "fake news" that limits our worldview, others see in them the key to unlocking social change and bringing people together in new ways and across geographical boundaries.

The digital revolution is constantly reshaping our world in a myriad of ways: from surveillance laws to social mobilisation; from innovative business models to open access information; from warfare strategy to medical treatment. Not only this, the way we construct our individual identities, build communities, protect human rights, and promote the humanities is increasingly mediated through online platforms, and contingent on the uneven access that global communities have to technology.

This module is designed to provide you with the practical skills required to navigate the increasingly digital world we live in, and to open up an important critical, interdisciplinary space; you will be encouraged to consider its legal, ethical, social, political, creative and economic implications.

Some of the key questions we will be addressing are:

How are digital technologies transforming society?

To what extent do digital technologies curb or enhance our rights and freedom?

What digital skills are needed for the knowledge economy and a democratic society?

How can we build and use our online identities?

How might we use digital technologies as creative and engaging forms of communication?

Autumn Term: The module leader will lead two-hour sessions in weeks 2-7, 9-11. Each session will provide training in a specific topic such as digital identities, e-safety, blogging, social media, multimedia production, and intelligent search strategies. Throughout the term, students will build a digital portfolio which will include a reflective report on their past, present and future use of technology.

2. AIMS

The aims of this module are:

- To acquire specific skills in the use of digital tools and online platforms.
- To introduce selected debates surrounding the development and use of digital technologies.
- To gain a critical understanding of the ethical, technical and social dimensions in the development and use of digital technologies.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this module the student should have:

- A deeper understanding of digital literacies, as well as the confidence and ability to use a broad range of digital technologies.
- The ability to discuss the material covered on the module and to demonstrate this competence through coursework, seminar discussions and the creation of a digital portfolio.
- A good understanding of the topics and debates that are central to the digital world.
- Confidence in using a number of specialised terms and terminology on digital technologies.
- The ability to distinguish elements of continuity and disjuncture in the development of digital technologies.
- An understanding of the impacts of digital technologies on society and human life.

4. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

All teaching events will be accessible to students on and off campus either face-to-face or remotely through online teaching. Week 8 is Reading Week.

5. READING

The full reading list is available on Talis.

<https://rl.talis.com/3/essex/lists/EB2161BE-190D-14D6-0541-B494D184ADBBD.html?lang=en-GB>

Videos and other tutorials will be available on Moodle

6. ASSESSMENT & SUBMISSION

Anonymous marking

The School/Centre operates anonymous marking for the majority of modules. Please do not include your name in the title, header/footer or file name of your submission. Use your **Student Registration Number**.

Submission of Coursework

All coursework must be uploaded and submitted to FASER, the University's Online Coursework Submission system available at <http://faser.essex.ac.uk/>.

The deadline for online submissions is 10.00am on the date stipulated.

We strongly recommend that you do this earlier to avoid any last-minute issues. You must ensure that you are familiar with this process well in advance of the deadline. Guidance on how to upload your work is available on the FASER website through the submission system.

When submitting your coursework, please make sure:

1. that your **Student Registration Number** (the 7-digit number on your student card), the **module code** and **coursework title** is clearly set out at the top of the first page (NO NAME).
2. that you include a completed '**digital portfolio checklist**' on your first page.

(An example of the file to be submitted will be provided on Moodle and explained in class.)

No extensions will be granted. Students who fail to submit their coursework by the stipulated deadline will receive a mark of zero unless they are able to submit a valid claim for late submission.

Returning of marks and feedback

Students should receive their mark and feedback for coursework within 20 working days of the submission deadline. Return dates are listed on FASER.

If you submit your work late, you will not receive your mark and feedback within 20 days of the original deadline.

3. ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

A guide and portfolio checklist will be available on Moodle

4. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Guidance on COVID-19:** <https://www.essex.ac.uk/covid-19>
- **Module credits:** You must take 120 credits in a year
- **Module codes explained:** FY = Full Year, AU = Autumn Term, SP = Spring Term
- **Late Submission/Extenuating Circumstances Information:**
<https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/exams-and-coursework/late-submission-of-coursework>
- **Marking Criteria:** can be found on Moodle - relevant *Information for Current Students* page
- **Support relating to disability, health or personal issues:** We would like to encourage you to contact the Student Services Hub, either by email askthehub@essex.ac.uk or by telephoning 01206 87 4000