

Department of Sociology

Tutorial Guide to CCGL9008 Cybersocieties

Understanding Technology as Global Change 2020 Spring



Course Tutors

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General Tutorial Objectives

The tutorial aims to cultivate students' self-learning and critical thinking abilities. Instead of being a mini-lecture, it is a chance for students to further discuss and apply the social theories introduced in the lectures to the critical reflection of their everyday experiences.

In the tutorials, students will

- Engage in intellectual discussions/debates with their fellow classmates and tutorial exercise/activity design for the tutorial group;
- Reflect upon discussion points raised in lectures;
- Explore their own theoretical and empirical puzzles through the assistance of their peers and tutors;
- Share individual experiences of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) use with their fellow classmates;
- Develop teamwork and communication skills through ongoing collaboration towards a group YouTube project.

Tutorial Duty

Tutorial topics are not exact repetition of course lectures. Students are advised to see tutorials as complementary to materials in lectures. Tutorials aim to offer a better picture of how cyber-technologies change our everyday life in local and global societies with more relevant discussions among students. Tutorials also aim to foster

students' self-learning and critical thinking via exchange and interactions. Therefore, students, rather than the tutors, should play the leading roles.

To achieve the goals, one or two students will be appointed as student leaders each week to lead the respective tutorial sessions, introduce the topic, and organize the tutorial discussion. Student leaders will be in charge of the following responsibilities.

- Briefly summarize key concepts/theories/ideas from assigned class readings and lectures;
- Link the class reading and lectures with the tutorial readings/articles/videos or recent news/stories;
- Design discussion questions and format/relevant activity/in-class exercise to facilitate tutorial discussion and students engagement;
- Meet the group tutor before the tutorial to revise/finalize the preparation.

Other students should also prepare the readings before tutorials, participate in the discussions, and raise questions as seen fit. Excellent student leaders and participants will receive extra credits to their tutorial performance.

Tutorial Assessment and Tips for Success

Tutorial performance will be assessed based on participation in tutorial discussion and performance of leader role during the discussion of assigned topic for each student.

- Reading or watching the required materials corresponding to the respective tutorial topics and attending lectures to obtain a full picture of the topics are essential for successful tutorial participation.
- Consulting tutors before conducting the student leader role is required for the smooth delivery of the tutorial discussion. Try to make your design creative and participatory.

Attending ALL NINE tutorials is mandatory. However, mere attendance will not guarantee any points. Tutorial assessment will be based on preparedness, engagement, and interaction with others. Be active! There are NO wrong opinions or dumb answers.

Contact your tutor in case of any problems related to the course, including future absence and making up class. It is students' responsibility to arrange their timetable to ensure full attendance and notify tutors if there are any systemic clash of availability.

Registration for Tutorials

Tutorial Registration Period: 5 PM 22 Jan to 4 PM 10 Feb.

Class size: Depends on general enrollment, normally 10-12 students in each group.

Tutorial allocation will be executed in first-come-first-served basis. Please note that there are limited positions in each tutorial session, so you are advised to exercise caution in your selection or any change of choice afterwards. If your desired time-slot was filled, please stay tuned and check Moodle frequently as other students may change their choices.

Special cases will only be accommodated with reasonable justifications, e.g., no suitable time-slots due to time conflicts with other courses/course-related activities. To ensure teaching quality, workload and fairness, the tutors may not cater to request in changing or extra-enrollment of certain time slots.

Enrolled students in the course who have not selected a tutorial will be allocated a time slot manually by the tutors, and can only change it with sufficient justification as well as a vacancy available in the desired time slot.

Tutorial Schedule and Topics

There are nine 50-minute tutorial sessions in total. Tutorial timetables and venues are available on Moodle. Students should confirm their corresponding group and venue when they register for tutorials on Moodle.

Tutorial Dates

Tutorial	Tuesday Groups	Wednesday Groups	Friday Groups	Notes
01	Feb 11	Feb 12	Feb 14	
02	Feb 18	Feb 19	Feb 21	
03	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 28	Group project outline due on Feb 26, 5 pm.
04	Mar 3	Mar 04	Mar 06	Self-reflection journal due on Mar 05, 5 pm.
05	Mar 17	Mar 18	Mar 20	

06	Mar 24	Mar 25	Mar 27	
07	Mar 31	Apr 01	Apr 03	
08	Apr 07	Apr 15	Apr 17	
09	Apr 14	Apr 22	Apr 24	Group project due before Apr 15

Tutorial topics and corresponding lecture topics.

Tutorial	Topic	Corresponding Lecture
01	Meet & greet and form into groups	YouTube group video screenings session
02	Toward a participatory culture	Participatory culture and media convergence
03	The online experience, digital divide, and social capital	The digital divides: Facts and myth
04	Symbols online: Searching for our digital identities	New ways to define ourselves online: Cyber self & society
05	Love in the time of cyberspace: liberation or addiction?	Love and sex in cyberspace
06	Make room for convergence: 1-Stop service and all-rounded media	Click to buy: How the Internet is transforming the consumer experience
07	It's not all fun and games: The victims of digital revolution	The digital dark side: Privacy and surveillance, digital abolition, stigma & stigmatization
08	Future directions and Reflections	The future is already here: Algorithms, filter bubbles, blockchain, and artificial intelligence
09	Exam preparation	Apr 29, In-class exam

Schedule Breakdown

The following is a list of useful readings and possible questions for you to get started in the topics. Rather than finish the readings and videos, what is more important is for

you to expand your imagination on respective topics and relate to your experiences. You are encouraged to be imaginative and critical in your selection of tutorial stories, or even go beyond what is mentioned in the following list.

Tutorial 01: Meet & Greet and Form into Groups

Welcome! In this session, you will meet your tutor, know about the tutorials and find your groupmates for the YouTube video project. Videos from previous years will be reviewed and students will be guided in the brainstorm process of finding an interesting topic. You will also select one interested topic to perform the group leader role in one of the following sessions.

Tutorial 02: Toward a Participatory Culture

- Useful readings and videos:
 - [Video] Edutopia. 2013. Henry Jenkins on Participatory Culture (Big Thinker Series)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgPm-clwRsQ>
 - Romano, Aja. 2019. The Archive of Our Own just won a Hugo. That's huge for fanfiction.
<https://www.vox.com/2019/4/11/18292419/archive-of-our-own-wins-hugo-award-best-related-work>
- Possible questions
 - How does participatory culture change our daily life? How can it benefit fandom, education, civic engagement and other spheres of our social-cultural life?
 - Can everyone participate in this process and be empowered by ICT? What kind of roles do digital platforms play in this process?
 - What are the potential risks of participatory culture?

Tutorial 03: The Online Experience, Digital Divide, and Social Capital

- Useful readings and videos:
 - Wong, Julia Carrie. 2017. Former Facebook executive: social media is ripping society apart.
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/dec/11/facebook-former-executive-ripping-society-apart>
 - [Video] Lee, Rainie. 2013. 15 percent of Americans don't use the Internet.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/business/technology/pew-15-percent-of-americans-dont-use-the-internet/2013/11/06/172a067c-4698-11e3-bf0c-cebf37c6f484_video.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.0554f69511a7
- Possible questions
 - How does the generation Z make use of the internet? How is it different from Generation Y, or previous generations? How is it different from upcoming

- generations?
- How does Facebook revolutionize the way we connect with people? What can it replace, and what it cannot?
- Does Internet empower the minority or increase the inequality? Why?
- Review social capital theory in relation to digital divide.

Tutorial 04: Symbols Online: Searching for Our Digital Identities

- Useful readings and videos:
 - boyd, danah. 2014. "Addiction: Why do youth share so publicly?". In *It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens*. (pp. 77-99) New Haven and London: Yale University Press.
PDF available on Moodle.
 - Heller, Nathan. 2017. "Estonia, The Digital Republic". *The New Yorker*. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/12/18/estonia-the-digital-republic>
 - Chamorro-Premuzic, Tomas. 2015. "How different are your online and offline personalities?" *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/media-network/2015/sep/24/online-offline-personality-digital-identity>
 - [Video] PBS Idea Channel. 2012. "Is Facebook Changing Our Identity?". https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRiGZJQZ_X4
- Possible questions
 - Do you sense any differences between your online and offline identities? What would these be?
 - To what extent do you think we, as societies, are ready to embrace digital-only or robotic identities?
 - What would be some of the advantages and disadvantages for our countries to switch to digital republic, following Estonia's model?

Tutorial 05: Love in the Time of Cyberspace: Liberation or Addiction?

- Useful readings and videos:
 - Blackwell, Derek. 2017. "The impact of Digital Media on Romance and Marriage." In *Digital Media: Transformations in Human Communication*. Edited by Paul Messaris and Lee Humphreys, 2nd edition. New York: Peter Lang.
PDF available on Moodle.
 - Gillespie, Katherine. 2016. "New Study Shows That Tinder Doesn't Hurt Romance." *VICE*. https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/zn8mby/stop-saying-that-tinder-is-the-end-of-romance
 - Hawgood, Alex. 2013. 'Interactive' Gets a New Meaning. *New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/26/fashion/Sex-toys-cybersex-high-tech.html>

- Possible questions
 - What are your feelings about the abundance of hook-up/dating apps? Are they a natural technological development or do you feel such apps spoil our loving/caring capacities?
 - Have you ever discussed sexuality online? How does it differ from offline experiences?
 - Do you perceive cyberspace as a safe space to explore sexuality or a new place for sexual crimes?

Tutorial 06: Make Room for Convergence: 1-Stop Service & All-Rounded Media

- Useful readings and videos
 - Brooks, Rebecca. 2016. "Amazon Go: A Bold, Inevitable Retail Revolution." <https://www.chiefmarketer.com/amazon-go-a-bold-inevitable-retail-revolution/>
 - Del Rey, Jason. 2017. "Amazon will start delivering packages into the homes of Prime members." <https://www.recode.net/2017/10/25/16538828/amazon-key-in-home-delivery-prime-camera-lock>
 - The observer. 2017. "Uber: the app that changed how the world hails a taxi." <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/jan/29/uber-app-changed-how-world-hails-a-taxi-brad-stone>
 - Wright, Christian L. 2017. "How Airbnb and Its Rivals are Winning Over Hotel Snobs." <https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-airbnb-and-its-rivals-are-winning-over-hotel-snobs-1498157392>
- Possible questions
 - Do you enjoy shopping online? What are the advantages/disadvantages compared to shopping offline?
 - How do the offline and online realities work together to provide you with new experiences?
 - How do you see the revolutionizing services like Amazon Go, Uber, Airbnb? How do you see the debate between technology as enabling us vs. technology as disruptive?

Tutorial 07: It's not All Fun and Games: The Victims of Digital Revolution

- Useful readings and videos
 - Bivens, Rena and Oliver L. Haimson. 2016. "Baking Gender into Social Media Design: How Platforms Shape Categories for Users and Advertisers." Social Media + Society. Online First, 1-12. PDF available on Moodle.
 - Crawford, Kate. 2017. "The Trouble with Bias". NIPS 2017 Keynote. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMym_BKWQzk
 - boyd, danah. 2017. "Toward Accountability: Data, Fairness, Algorithms, Consequences." Data Society.net. <https://points.datasociety.net/toward->

- Possible questions:
 - What are the main problems with digital technologies in a globalized world?
 - What groups of people are stigmatized both offline and online? Why do you think that is the case?
 - How could we use digital technologies to combat stigma and stigmatization?

Tutorial 08: Future directions and Reflections

- Useful readings and videos
 - Tufekci, Zeynep. 2018. "Why Zuckerberg's 14 Year Apology Tour Hasn't Fixed Facebook." *Wired*. <https://www.wired.com/story/why-zuckerberg-15-year-apology-tour-hasnt-fixed-facebook>
 - Tarnoff, Ben. 2017. "Silicon Valley siphons our data like oil. But the deepest drilling has just begun." *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/23/silicon-valley-big-data-extraction-amazon-whole-foods-facebook>
 - [Video] Haubursin, Christophe. 2017. "Automation is coming for truckers. But first, they're being watched." <https://www.vox.com/videos/2017/11/20/16670266/trucking-eld-surveillance>
 - Albright, Jonathan. 2017. "Welcome to the Era of Fake News." *Media and Communication*, 5(2): 87-9.
PDF available on Moodle.

- Possible questions:
 - How do you see your generation using ICT? How does algorithms affect your using behaviors and your online experiences?
 - Do you feel manipulated by algorithms, on social network, on news-feed apps, or during online shopping?
 - How do you perceive the increasing amount of fake news? How could you tell the truth from fake?

Tutorial 09: Exam Preparation

We will spend our tutorial this week to prepare for the in-class exam.