**WST4002** (class # 28296) **Data Feminisms**

FALL 2024

*MONDAYS PERIODS 6-8*

*12:50-3:50PM*

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr.Hina Shaikh

**Office hours:** 2-3:30 Tuesdays

Office location, instructor email, and phone contact are provided in the course Canvas page.

**COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Course Description**  
Draws from critical data and algorithm studies and feminist science and technology studies to develop critical tools of inquiry needed to approach data within a context of racialized, gendered, colonial, and classed systems of power. Combines practical data workshops with critical readings to analyze data across key uses in domains such as healthcare, security apparatuses, carceral systems, and digital infrastructures.

**NOTE:** This course covers a variety of ideas and views about the topics of focus, taught as objects of analysis within the larger course of instruction. Emphasis is on critical thinking, examination of evidence, and evaluation of arguments. No lesson is intended to compel a particular feeling or belief. Endorsing or agreeing with a particular view is not expected or required.

**Prerequisites**  
Sophomore standing or higher.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

* List required and recommended textbooks (if applicable)
* Benjamin, Ruha. 2020. *Race after technology*. (REQUIRED)
* O’Neil, Cathy. *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy*. New York: Crown Publishers, 2016. 272p. (RECOMMENDED)
* D'Ignazio, Catherine, and Lauren F. Klein. 2020. *Data feminism*. (RECOMMENDED)
* Noble, Safiya Umoja. 2018. *Algorithms of oppression: data discrimination in the age of Google*. New York: New York University Press, 2018. (RECOMMENDED)
* All other assigned material available through Canvas

**Materials will be available through the following means:** Course Canvas page and Course reserves

**Materials Fees:** N/A

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:**

Interrogate the intersections of identity with the process of collecting, cleaning, sorting, and analyzing data

Achieve an understanding of how to approach critical data studies through data visualization tools in workshops

Analyze the connections between archival and data practices through writing assignments and workshops

Creatively engage with critical inquiries of data through building a zine

**ASSESSMENT AND GRADES**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [Catalog](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/).

**Graded Course Activities**

Note: Additional assignment details are provided on the course Canvas page.

**Zine pages = 200 points**

Every 3 weeks, you will create a page of creative interpretation of a topic, argument, or theme from the week’s readings. Zine pages must include components from every workshop.

**Weekly in-class discussion assignments = 200 points**

Weekly reading reflections (up to 250 words each) answering questions throughout class in either solo or group work. Unexcused absences will result in a significant point deduction from the weekly assignments.

**Midterm exam = 200 points**

Midterm exam with long essay questions that assess students’ ability to reference and apply course material and concepts.

**Final Portfolio = 400 points**

Original and rewrites of all in-class writings and midterm.

**Grading Scale and Policies**

More information about UF grading policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

[*Graduate school regulations*](https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/)*: any graduate student may be denied further registration if progress toward completing the program becomes unsatisfactory to the academic unit, college, or Dean of the Graduate School. Unsatisfactory scholarship is defined as failure to maintain a B average (3.00) in all work attempted. Graduate students need an overall GPA of 3.00 truncated and a 3.00 truncated GPA in their major (and in the minor, if a minor is declared) at graduation. Students with less than a 3.00 GPA may not hold an assistantship or fellowship.]*

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| **Assignment** | **Percentage of Grade** |
| In-class discussion papers | 20% |
| Zine pages | 20% |
| Midterm | 20% |
| Final Portfolio | 40% |

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| Letter Grade | Points |
| A | 100-93 |
| A- | 92-90 |
| B+ | 89-87 |
| B | 86-83 |
| B- | 82-80 |
| C+ | 79-77 |
| C | 76-73 |
| C- | 72-70 |
| D+ | 69-67 |
| D | 66-63 |
| D- | 62-60 |
| E | <59 |

**COURSE CALENDAR**

This calendar is subject to change for pedagogical or logistical reasons. To the extent possible, students will be notified in advance of any such changes.

| **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings/Preparation** | **Work Due** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WEEK 1  August 26, 2024 | Introductions | Introductions | In-class discussion assignment |
| WEEK 3  September 9, 2024 | **historical subject/object of record** | Philip, Kavita. 2020. *“*The Internet Will Be Decolonized*”* in Your Computer is On Fire. MIT Press.  Hartman, Saidiya. "Venus in Two Acts." *Small Axe* 12, no. 2 (2008): 1-14. | In-class discussion assignment |
| WEEK 4  September 16, 2024 | **What is Critical Data Studies?** | Benjamin, Ruha. *Race After Technology:* Introduction, 1-49. | In-class discussion assignment  Zine page 1 due to canvas |
| WEEK 5  September 23, 2024 | **Bitcoin, materiality of technology, and exploding suns** | Benjamin, Ruha. *Race After Technology:* Chapters 3: Coded Exposure. | In-class discussion assignment |
| WEEK 6  September 30, 2024 | **Technoliberal Visions of the future** | Vora, Kalindi and Atanasoski, Neda. 2020. “Introduction” in *Surrogate Humanity.* | In-class discussion assignment |
| WEEK 7  October 7, 2024 | **Datafying Social Mediums, origins of YouTube, Wikipedia and other death-drives.** | Noble, Safiya. *Algorithms of Oppression:* Introduction  Noble, Safiya. Algorithms of Oppression Chapter 1 | In-class discussion assignment  Zine page 2 due |
| WEEK 8  October 14, 2024 | **Healthcare Data, COVID, and Techno-Orientalism** | Siu, Lok, and Claire Chun. "Yellow Peril and Techno-orientalism in the Time of Covid-19: Racialized Contagion, Scientific Espionage, and Techno-Economic Warfare." *Journal of Asian American Studies* 23, no. 3 (2020): 421-440. | In-class discussion assignment |
| WEEK 9  October 21, 2024 | **Racialized/Gendered Surveillance and Failure** | Chapter 4: “The Madness of Algorithms: Aberration and Unreasonable Acts.” Amoore, Louise. *Cloud Ethics: Algorithms and the Attributes of Ourselves and Others*. Duke University Press. 2020.  Eubanks, Virginia. *Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police, and Punish the Poor*. Chapter 4: The Allegheny Algorithm | In-class discussion assignment  Mid-term distributed |
| WEEK 10  October 28, 2024 | **Racialized/Gendered Surveillance and Failure** | Browne, Simone. *Dark Matters: On the Surveillance of Blackness*. Chapter 1: Notes on Surveillance Studies: Through the Door of No Return  O’Neil, Cathy. *Weapons of Math Destruction*: *How Big Data Increases Inequality and threatens democracy.* Chapter 5: Civilian Causalities, Justice in the Age of Big Data | In-class discussion assignment  Zine page 3 due |
| WEEK 11  November 4, 2024 | **Racialized/Gendered Surveillance and Failure** | Amoore, L. (2009), Algorithmic War: Everyday Geographies of the War on Terror. Antipode, 41: 49-69.  **\***Amoore, Louise. “Cloud Geographies: Computing, Data, Sovereignty.” Progress in Human Geography 42, no. 1 (February 2018): 4–24. https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132516662147. | In-class discussion assignment  Mid-term due |
| WEEK 13  November 18, 2024 | **Is Data Justice Possible: Material Futures of Clouds and Power** | Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren Klein. Conclusion. (2020). In Data Feminism. Retrieved from <https://data-feminism.mitpress.mit.edu/pub/a1ao95xs/release/4?readingCollection=0cd867ef>  **\***Monea, Alexander. 2022. “Chapter 2: Straight Code” in *The Digital Closet: How the Internet Became Straight*. MIT Press. | In-class discussion assignment |
| WEEK 15  December 2, 2024 | **Design Justice, Abolitionist Designs** | **\***Amoore, Louise. “Cloud Geographies: Computing, Data, Sovereignty.” Progress in Human Geography 42, no. 1 (February 2018): 4–24. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132516662147>.  Noble, Safiya. Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism. Chapter 5  Benjamin, Ruha. *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code*. Chapter 5: Retooling Solidarity, Reimagining Justice | Zine page 4 due |

**FINAL DATE FOR PORTFOLIO WITH REWRITES: 12/13/2024 12PM**

Full bibliographic info and assignment instructions available the course Canvas page.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

**Attendance policy**Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.  
 **Students requiring accommodation**Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.  
 **UF course evaluation process**Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

**ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

**For a list of additional campus resources, see section C 5 here:** <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/media/syllabusufledu/syllabi_policy_09_09_2022.pdf>

**University Honesty Policy**University of Florida students are bound by the Honor Pledge. On all work submitted for credit by a student, the following pledge is required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Student Honor Code and Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code, as well as the process for reported allegations and sanctions that may be implemented. All potential violations of the code will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a student is found responsible for an Honor Code violation in this course, the instructor will enter a Grade Adjustment sanction which may be up to or including failure of the course. For additional information, see <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

**In-class recording**Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.  
  
A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.  
  
Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party-note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

**Procedure for conflict resolution**  
Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact the Undergraduate Coordinator (Dr. Joanna Neville: [jneville@ufl.edu](mailto:jneville@ufl.edu)) or the Graduate Coordinator (Dr. Kendal Broad: [klbroad@ufl.edu](mailto:klbroad@ufl.edu)) for undergraduate and graduate courses, respectively. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; [352-392-1308](tel:3523921308)) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; [352-392-1261](tel:3523921261)).  
  
***Health and Wellness***

* U Matter, We Care: [umatter@ufl.edu](file:///Users/moradibonnie/Desktop/umatter@ufl.edu); [352-392-1575](tel:3523921575).
* Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>; [352-392-1575](tel:3523921575).
* Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center; [352-392-1161](tel:352392-1161).
* University Police Department: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>; [352-392-1111](tel:3523921111) (911 for emergencies).

***Academic Resources***

* E-learning technical support: [learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:learning-support@ufl.edu); <https://elearning.ufl.edu>; [352-392-4357](tel:3523924357).
* Career Connections Center: Reitz Union; <http://www.career.ufl.edu/>; [352-392-1601](tel:3523921601).
* Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>.
* Academic Resources: 1317 Turlington Hall; [352-392-2010](tel:3523922010); <https://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu>.
* Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

**Office of Victim Services** 1515 Museum Road, (352) 392-5648 (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) (352) 392-1111 (after business hours and on weekends)

**Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center** 352-264-6760 Monday-Friday, 8:30AM - 5PM, some services available 24/7

**Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network** 352-377-8255 (24-hour helpline)