UTD

Course	**ATCM 6381.001**
Course Title	**Media, Culture, and Economy: The Work of Care in Digital Cultures**
Professor	Josef Nguyen
Term	Fall 2020
Modality	Online

Professor's Contact Information

Email Address jdn160330@utdallas.edu
Please consult this resource for proper email etiquette:
[medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087]
Please allow up to 24 hours for responses to emails

Online Office Hours By email appointment, using Jitsi Meet

General Course Information

Course Description This course examines the history of and interplay among economic logics and media technologies and industries. To do so, the course specifically investigates the work of care in the political economy of digital cultures. Questions to explore include:

- What are technologies of care? How is care itself a technology?
- What forms do the acts, practices, and labors of care take on in relation to informatic and computing technologies?
- How do emerging media technologies reimagine our capacities to care, including intimacy, compassion, and empathy?
- What are constitutive elements and meanings in caring for oneself, for others, and for the environment in increasingly networked lives?
- How do we care for who and for what falls outside of digital cultures?
- What are the transformative capabilities and limits of care and care work for just worlds?

To address these and related questions, this class draws on diverse fields, including media studies, science and technology studies, feminist and queer theory, affect theory, and ecocriticism, in order to examine care as a cultural practice, form of knowledge, and disposition in contemporary digital cultures. Readings, projects, and media will explore different theorizations of care and/as work, the monetization and commodification of care, as well as the transformative potential and constraints of care through a range of topics relevant to digital media technologies, such as the gig economy, sex work, social media, games and play, environmental justice, climate change, crisis and disaster response, and design.

Learning Outcomes Students will:
- Understand a range of theorizations and analyses of care and care work
- Become familiar with approaches in political economy
- Integrate existing scholarship into their own original research with awareness of the concerns of academic publishing

Class Platform   Course readings, assignment instructions, and other materials will be available via Box (see below). Course announcements and assignment submissions will be handled on eLearning.

Optional online discussions will take place on Jitsi Meet.

Required Texts & Materials   María Puig de la Bellacasa, *Matters of Care: Speculative Ethics in More than Human Worlds*
Shaka McGlotten, *Virtual Intimacies: Media, Affect, and Queer Sociality*
Brooke Erin Duffy, *(Not) Getting Paid to Do What You Love: Gender, Social Media, and Aspirational Labor*
Rahul Mukherjee, *Radiant Infrastructures: Media, Environment, and Cultures of Uncertainty*
Alenda Y. Chang, *Playing Nature: Ecology in Video Games*

All other readings and materials will be available free online through this link: [utdallas.box.com/v/atcm6381-fall2020]

Course Policies

Grading Criteria

Class Engagement (5% for each of 10 weeks)	50%
Research Paper	50%
-Abstract and Abstract Workshop (10%)	
-Annotated Bibliography (10%)	
-Full Paper (30%)	

Class Protocol   Reading, assignment instructions, and other materials are available through the course Box site. Assignments are submitted through eLearning.

For the Class Engagement component of the course grade, you can choose between two different options for each week of assigned readings and media texts. *You can choose either the asynchronous or synchronous option on a weekly basis*; choosing the asynchronous or synchronous option once does not commit you to that option for the remainder of the semester.

Asynchronous Option: Write and submit a 1200-word critical response to that week's materials, putting the readings and media texts in conversation in order to think about the work of care in digital cultures. What arguments about care and care work are presented? How do they relate to that week's thematic? How do they relate (align or compete) with each other? How do the materials help you think through investigating care and care work? What potential insights or limitations do the materials offer you in examining care and care work? Be sure to summarize arguments succinctly, and use proper citational practice. Also include a 50-word bio in each response introducing yourself and your interests. These responses are due by 11:59PM on the Monday of the week assigned.

Synchronous Option: Participate actively in a synchronous online discussion scheduled on the Monday of the week assigned from 1:00-3:45PM on Jitsi Meet. This presumes that you will have prepared to discuss all assigned readings and media texts in advance. Being merely present for the online discussion, however, is not sufficient participation. You must demonstrate engagement with that week's materials and with your peers, asking questions and exploring the readings and media texts together. Jitsi Meet allows participation via webcam, phone, as well as text chat. All of these are acceptable modes for participating actively in synchronous online discussion.

Classroom Conduct	It is our responsibility to work together to produce a classroom environment where everyone can share, discuss, and question the materials at hand as well as create and contribute their own work respectfully and productively.
	Disagreements and conflicting perspectives will, unavoidably, emerge. To ensure that participants feel comfortable contributing a diverse set of thoughts, comments, and views, we will not use oppressive or harmful language, tolerate harassment, personal attacks, and other forms of actions and expressions that unduly distract from the educational mission and inflict emotional, physical, or psychological harm on those involved.
	Part of the role of encouraging a diverse and inclusive learning environment is acknowledging that individuals should feel safe and respected to contribute to the classroom in good faith. This involves not only allowing everyone opportunities to contribute their thoughts but to be mindful of how we recognize and address others. Do not assume things about others' identities, backgrounds, or experiences—whether that is age, race, gender, sexuality, ability, class, etc… Refer to people by their names, pronouns, and other identifiers that they disclose. Avoid insisting on imposing identity markers onto others. Allow people to self-identify as they feel comfortable.
	What you discuss in, create for, and share with this class reflects not only you as both a student and a civic subject, but it also reflects on me as your instructor, the class as a learning community, and UT Dallas as an academic institution.
	Please discuss with me any concerns you have regarding an unsafe or hostile classroom environment, particularly if something arises that causes distress.
Late Work	Late work will be penalized 10% (a full letter grade) for each 24-hour period beyond the deadline. If you need an extension, let me know well in advance, so we can make arrangements.
Accommodation	Students with disabilities are encouraged to utilize the on-campus resources at the Office of Student AccessAbility. OSA is located in the Administration Building (AD 2.224), and OSA personnel can be reached at (972) 883-2098 or by email: studentaccess@utdallas.edu. They can provide documentation and details for accommodations to address your individual needs. If you need any special accommodations to complete this course successfully, please provide me with this information as soon as possible, so we can make appropriate arrangements.
	For additional information regarding the ADA Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, you may refer to the following links: [www2.ed.gov/policy/rights/guid/ocr/disabilityoverview.html] [ada.gov/reg3a.html#Anchor-87516]
Academic Honesty	All work must be original for this class. Unless you are specifically told to collaborate with classmates, complete your graded work individually. Plagiarism is using the words and materials of others as if they were your own. It is a serious offense with serious consequences. Use proper citation to indicate the use of other people's work to support and strengthen your own. All suspicions of plagiarism will be investigated. Please consult [utdallas.edu/dept/graddean/gsPolDishonesty.htm]
Comet Creed	*This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:*
	"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures	*The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to [go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies] for these policies.*

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Week 01:
Caring about Care Work

Monday, 17 August 2020

Opening Question: How do you define what "care" is in the context of digital cultures? How do these media texts and initiatives define what "care" is?

Adrian Chen and Ciaran Cassidy, *The Moderators*, [fieldofvision.org/the-moderators]
Christian Moeller, *Cheese*, [christianmoeller.com/Cheese]
NikkieTutorials, "I'm Coming Out," [youtube.com/watch?v=QOOw2E_qAsE]
molleindustria, *Phone Story*, [phonestory.org]
Woebot, [woebot.io]
Ugly Mugs, [uglymugs.org]

Week 02:
What's the Matter with Care?

Monday, 24 August 2020

María Puig de la Bellacasa, *Matters of Care: Speculative Ethics in More than Human Worlds*
Mayanthi Fernando, "Critique as Care"
Games and Online Harassment Hotline, [gameshotline.org/]

Week 03:
Accounting for Care Work

Monday, 31 August 2020

Geoffrey C. Bowker and Susan Leigh Star, "What a Difference a Name Makes--The Classification of Nursing Work," *Sorting Things Out: Classification and Its Consequences*
Tania Pérez-Bustos, María Fernanda Olarte Sierra, and Adriana Díaz del Castillo, "Working with Care: Narratives of Invisible Women Scientists Practicing Forensic Genetics in Colombia," *Beyond Imported Magic: Essays on Science, Technology, and Society in Latin America* (eds. Eden Medina, Ivan da Costa Marques, and Christina Holmes)
Kalindi Vora, "The Transmission of Care: Affective Economies and Indian Call Centers," *Intimate Labors: Cultures, Technologies, and the Politics of Care* (ed. Eileen Boris)
Alexandrea J. Ravenelle, "Sharing is Caring," *Hustle and Gig: Struggling and Surviving in the Sharing Economy*

Week 04:

Monday, 7 September 2020
NO READINGS OR MATERIALS

Week 05:
Affect and Intimacy

Monday, 14 September 2020
Shaka McGlotten, *Virtual Intimacies: Media, Affect, and Queer Sociality*
Tobias Raun, "Capitalizing Intimacy: New Subcultural Forms of Micro-celebrity Strategies and Affective Labour on YouTube"
"Grindr Users Make Kindness Their Preference," [youtube.com/watch?v=UM_VbyDKYtI]

Week 06:   **Monday, 21 September 2020**
Alterity and   Donna J. Haraway, "Sharing Suffering: Instrumental Relations between
Empathy   Laboratory Animals and Their People," *When Species Meet*
Olivia Banner, "Against the Empathy Hypothesis," *Communicative Biocapitalism: The Voice of the Patient in Digital Health and the Health Humanities*
Teddy Pozo, "Queer Games After Empathy: Feminism and Haptic Game Design Aesthetics from Consent to Cuteness to the Radically Soft," [gamestudies.org/1803/articles/pozo]
Lisa Nakamura, "Feeling Good about Feeling Bad: Virtuous Virtual Reality and the Automation of Racial Empathy"

Week 07:   **Monday, 28 September 2020**
Loving to Labor   Brooke Erin Duffy, *(Not) Getting Paid to Do What You Love: Gender, Social Media, and Aspirational Work*
Christina Dunbar-Hester, "Working Imaginaries: 'Freedom from Jobs' or Learning to Love to Labor," *Hacking Diversity: The Politics of Inclusion in Open Technology Cultures*
Thomas Gokey, *Total Amount of Money Rendered in Exchange for a Masters of Fine Arts Degree to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Pulped into Four Sheets of Paper*, [artprize.org/thomas-gokey/2011/total-amount-of-money-rendered-in-exchange-for-a-masters-of-fine-arts-degree-to-the-school-of-the-ar]

Week 08:   **Monday, 5 October 2020**
Free Labors   Tiziana Terranova, "Free Labor"
Julia Velkova, "Open Cultural Production and the Online Gift Economy: The Case of Blender," [firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/6944]
Gabriella Lukács, "The Labor of Cute: Net Idols in the Digital Economy"
Bonnie Ruberg, "Doing It for Free: Digital Labour and the Fantasy of Amateur Online Pornography"

Week 09:   **Monday, 12 October 2019**
Environmental   Rahul Mukherjee, *Radiant Infrastructures: Media, Environment, and*
Health and Justice   *Cultures of Uncertainty*
Moya Bailey and Whitney Peoples, "Articulating Black Feminist Health Science Studies," [catalystjournal.org/index.php/catalyst/article/view/28844]
Tega Brain, *Coin-Operated Wetland*, [tegabrain.com/Coin-Operated-Wetland]

Week 10:   **Monday, 19 October 2020**
Playing Nature   Alenda Y. Chang, *Playing Nature: Ecology in Video Games*
with Care   Stina Attebery, "Coshaping Digital and Biological Animals: Companion Species Encounters and Biopower in the Video Games *Pikmin* and *Pokémon*," [depauw.edu/site/humanimalia/issue%2012/attebery.html]
JouleBug, [joulebug.com/]

Week 11: **Monday, 26 October 2020**
Abstracts Abstract due Monday, 26 October 2020 by 11:59PM to Box instead of eLearning

Feedback for Peer Abstracts due Friday, 30 October 2020 by 11:59PM to eLearning

Week 12: **Monday, 2 November 2020**
NO READINGS OR MATERIALS

Week 13: **Monday, 9 November 2020**
Reimaging Worlds Tony Fry, "Sustainability: Inefficiency or Insufficiency?"
of Care Aimi Hamraie and Kelly Fritsch, "Crip Technoscience Manifesto,"
[catalystjournal.org/index.php/catalyst/article/view/29607]
Ren-yo Hwang, "Deviant Care for Deviant Futures: QTBIPoC Radical Relationalism as Mutual Aid against Carceral Care"
Kalamaoka'aina Niheu, "Indigenous Resistance in an Era of Climate Change Crisis"

Week 14: **Monday, 16 November 2020**
Annotated Individual Skype/Office Meetings to Be Scheduled this Week
Bibliographies
Annotated Bibliography Due Online to eLearning 24 Hours before Individual Meeting

Week 15: **Monday, 23 November 2020**
NO READINGS OR MATERIALS

FINALS WEEK **Research Paper due**
Tuesday, 8 December 2020 by 11:59PM

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.