	Course	ATCM 6381
	Course Title	Media, Culture, and Economy: The Place of Work in Digital Cultures
	Professor	Dr. Josef Nguyen (he/him/his)
	Term	Spring 2024
	Meetings	M, 4:00-6:45PM in ATCM 1.201

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Email Address	josef.nguyen@utdallas.edu
	Please format and address all emails regarding the class professionally, include the course information in the subject line, and allow up to 24 hours for responses (and longer for weekends)
Office Location	ATC 3.617
Office Phone	972.883.7552
Office Hours	By email appointment, with in-office and online options

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions	ATCM 6300
Course Description	This course examines the history of and interplay among economic logics and media technologies and industries. This semester focuses specifically on the infrastructural, material, and embodied dimensions of work in contemporary digital cultures. This class draws on diverse fields—including media studies, science and technology studies, feminist and queer theory, critical race and ethnic studies, disability and crip theory, and ecocriticism—to examine the spatiotemporal (literal) place of work and the ideological and cultural (metaphoric) place of work in digital cultures. Assigned materials will cover workplaces and work shifts, technologies that enable and are used in different forms of work, embodiment and digital work, how digital work travels and connects geographies and peoples globally, histories of technological worker identities and demographics, and dominant narratives about how digital work is positioned in and throughout workers' lives.
Learning Outcomes	Students will: • Understand a range of theorizations and analyses of labor and work as historically, materially, and ideologically situated • Become familiar with approaches in political economy, particularly as relevant to new, emerging, and digital media technologies • Integrate existing scholarship into their own original research with awareness of the concerns of academic publishing

Required Texts & Materials	Minh-Ha T. Pham, *Asians Wear Clothes on the Internet: Race, Gender, and the Work of Personal Style Blogging* (Duke University Press, 2015)
	Sarah T. Roberts, *Behind the Screen: Content Moderation in the Shadows of Social Media* (Yale University Press, 2019)
	Alexandrea J. Ravanelle, *Hustle and Gig: Struggling and Surviving in the Sharing Economy* (University of California Press, 2019)
	Craig Robertson, *The Filing Cabinet: A Vertical History of Information* (University of Minnesota Press, 2021)
	Peter C. Little, *Burning Matters: Life, Labor, and E-Waste Pyropolitics in Ghana* (Oxford University Press, 2022)

All other readings and materials are available in the Box folder for the course.

COURSE POLICIES

Grading Criteria	Thoughtful Class Engagement	40%
	Midterm Assignment	20%
	Final Assignment	40%

Accommodations and Academic Support

Students with disabilities are encouraged to utilize the on-campus resources at the Office of Student AccessAbility. You can contact the office at 972-883-6104 or by email: studentaccessability@utdallas.edu. Their office is located in the Student Service Building (SSB), suite 3.200. 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.

Additionally, the information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources.

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 contribute their own work respectfully and productively. Conflicting perspectives are unavoidable. 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 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 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… Address 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 share with and create for 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.

Class Attendance
Attend class regularly and in full. Any absences should include documentation of a valid excuse (family or medical emergency, for example). Unexcused absences may impact course grades. Discuss upcoming potential absences with me to make appropriate arrangements.

Arriving more than 30 minutes late or leaving more than 30 minutes early, without prior clearance, may be grounds for marking that day as an absence. Failure to prepare for class participation (such as not having done the necessary reading) will also be regarded as conditions for an absence.

Technology in the Classroom
Laptops and computers can be used in the classroom solely for purposes directly pertinent to the activities and discussions at-hand. Excessive misuse of technology in the classroom will result in an absence for the day.

Class Materials
The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation.

Additionally, unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course.

Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Late Work
Late work will be penalized 10% (a full letter grade) for each 24-hour period beyond the deadline and will not receive written feedback by default. For written feedback on a late assignment, please send an email request. If you need an extension, let me know in advance so we can make arrangements.

Academic Honesty
All work must be original for this class. Plagiarism is using the words and materials of others as if they were your own. It is a serious offense with consequences. Use proper citation to indicate the use of other people's work to 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 review the sections regarding the credit/no credit grading option and withdrawal from class.*
	Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.

ASSIGNMENTS & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Week 01: **Monday, 15 January 2024**
NO CLASS **NO CLASS MEETING IN OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY**

Week 02: **Monday, 22 January 2024**
Contemporary Political Economy

Melissa Gregg, "Executive Athleticism: Time Management and the Quest for Organization," *Counterproductive: Time Management in the Knowledge Economy*

Judy Wajcman, "Working with Constant Connectivity," *Pressed for Time: The Acceleration of Life in Digital Capitalism*

Julia Ticona, "Introduction: Precarious Inclusion in the Digital Economy," *Left to Our Own Devices: Coping with Insecure Work in a Digital Age*

Syllabus Overview
Class Introductions

Week 03: **Monday, 29 January 2024**
Some Feelings about Work

Brooke Erin Duffy, "Entrepreneurial Wishes and Career Dreams," *(Not) Getting Paid to Do What You Love: Gender, Social Media, and Aspirational Work*

Renyi Hong, "Passionate Work and the Good Life," *Passionate Work: Endurance after the Good Life*

Michael Siciliano, "Disappearing into the Object: Aesthetic Subjectivities and Organizational Control in Routine Cultural Work"

Week 04: **Monday, 5 February 2024**
Histories of Labor and Technology

Catherine Knight Steele, "A History of Black Women and Technology," *Digital Black Feminism*

Jennifer S. Light, "When Computers Were Women"

Lisa Nakamura, "Indigenous Circuits: Navajo Women and the Racialization of Early Electronic Manufacture"

Week 05: **Infrastructural** **Labor**	**Monday, 12 February 2024** Peter C. Little, *Burning Matters: Life, Labor, and E-Waste* *Pyropolitics in Ghana* Introduce Midterm Assignment
Week 06: **Midterm** **Assignment**	**Monday, 19 February 20234** **NO CLASS MEETING** **Midterm Assignment due by 11:59PM**
Week 07: **Desk Work, Part I**	**Monday, 26 February 2024** Craig Robertson, *The Filing Cabinet: A Vertical History of* *Information*
Week 08: **Desk Work, Part II**	**Monday, 4 March 2024** Sarah Lochlann Jain, "Keyboard Design: The Litigation Wave of the 1990s," *Injury: The Politics of Product Design and Safety Law in* *the United States* Kalindi Vora, "Call Center Agents: Commodified Affect and the Biocapital of Care," *Life Support: Biocapital and the New History* *of Outsourced Labor* Ash Watson, Deborah Lupton, and Mike Michael, "The COVID Digital Home Assemblage: Transforming the Home into a Work Space during the Crisis"
SPRING BREAK	**Monday, 11 March 2024** **NO CLASS MEETING**
Week 09: **Automation**	**Monday, 18 March 2024** Joshua Reeves, "Automatic for the People: The Automation of Communicative Labor" Jennifer Rhee, "Caring: Care Labor, Conversational Artificial Intelligence, and Disembodied Women," *The Robotic Imaginary:* *The Human and the Price of Dehumanized Labor* Thao Phan, "Amazon Echo and the Aesthetics of Whiteness" Introduce Final Assignment
Week 10: **Sharing Economy/** **Gig Economy**	**Monday, 25 March 2024** Alexandrea J. Ravanelle, *Hustle and Gig: Struggling and* *Surviving in the Sharing Economy*
Week 11: **Proposals**	**Monday, 1 April 2024** **NO CLASS MEETING** **Proposals for Final Assignment due by 11:59PM**

Week 12: **Social Media** **Labor, Part I**	**Monday, 8 April 2024** Minh-Ha T. Pham, *Asians Wear Clothes on the Internet: Race,* *Gender, and the Work of Personal Style Blogging*
Week 13: **Social Media** **Labor, Part II**	**Monday, 15 April 2024** Sarah T. Roberts, *Behind the Screen: Content Moderation in the* *Shadows of Social Media*
Week 14: **Work and Play**	**Monday, 22 April 2024** Steven M. Gelber, "Occupations for a Free Time," *Hobbies: Leisure* *and the Culture of Work in Ameica* Patrick Jagoda, "Gamification," *Experimental Games: Critique, Play,* *and Design in the Age of Gamification* Mary F. Hoffman and Renee L. Cowan, "The Meaning of Work/Life: A Corporate Ideology of Work/Life Balance"
Week 15: **WORK ON** **FINAL** **ASSIGNMENT**	**Monday, 29 April 2024** **NO CLASS MEETING**
FINALS WEEK	**Final Assignment due Friday, 10 May 2024 by 11:59PM**