

SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY AND ART HISTORY AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES CENTRE

MODULE DESCRIPTION – YEAR 2022-23

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

CONTACTS	NAME	EMAIL
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ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN			
ASSESSMENT TYPE	% Of Overall Module	Deadline Week	Deadline Date
Digital Portfolio	100%	Week 16	Thursday, 19 January 2023

LISTEN AGAIN AVAILABILITY	Listen Again is available for the seminars/classes
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Module available to:

- Study Abroad students
- Auditing students
- Outside option students

CONTENTS

1. **Module Outline**
2. **Aims**
3. **Learning outcomes**
4. **Teaching and Learning Methods**
5. **Reading**
6. **Assessment and submission**
7. **Assignment details and questions**
8. **General information**

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 Specification: The module supervisor will lead two-hour sessions in weeks 2–7, 9–11. Each session will provide training in a specific topic such as digital identities, web design, multimedia production, e-safety, blogging, intelligent search strategies, note-taking, digital writing skills and agile project management. Throughout the term, you will build a digital portfolio including (1) a static website, (2) a self- and peer-assessment file and (3) a succinct portfolio overview. This year, you are asked to use your website to critically reflect on connections between **digital identities and existential risks** (e.g., AI safety, climate change, physical disasters, bio, and nuclear weapons).

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

One introductory Lecture in week 2; two hours lab sessions every week; Week 8 is Reading Week

5. READING

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 you submit a completed '**digital portfolio checklist**'. A template for this checklist will be provided in Week 2 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.

7. ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

A template for your digital portfolio (including the checklist file) will be provided in Week 2.

When submitting your checklist on FASER, you must ensure it has a URL to your digital portfolio. This portfolio will be public and hosted in a GitHub repository. (We will set this up together in class.) Your repository will have to contain the following portfolio elements:

1. **a static website** (80% of your overall mark). This is a simple website supporting your professional (digital) identity. It is the environment where you will critically reflect on connections between **digital identities and existential risks**. (Your website can discuss one or multiple existential risks.)

Your website can have web pages and/or blog posts. It can use text, figures (e.g., graphs, photos), embedded audio (e.g., podcast episodes) and audio-video assets (e.g., screencasts) to communicate your findings.

2. **self-and peer-assessment** (10% of your overall mark). This assessment will use the CS220 AU marking rubric to help streamline your progress. Before you submit your final portfolio, you will need to evaluate your portfolio and give feedback on at least one of your classmates' portfolios.
3. **portfolio overview** (10% of your overall mark). This overview has three parts: (1) a succinct outline of your portfolio, (2) a list of completed tasks (Log) and (3) a list of tasks to do (TODO list).

8. 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