

Syllabus

Contact:

Leanne Bowler
Information Sciences Building
135 N. Bellefield Avenue, Room 620
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
15260

Telephone: 412-624-7679
Fax: 412-624-5231
E-mail: lbowler@sis.pitt.edu

Teaching Assistant: Shannon McNeill, Librarian, Youth & Adult Services
E-mail: smcneill66@gmail.com

Course Description:

Children today are bathed in technology - in the home, at school, and at the public library. How do children use these technologies? How does technology effect the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of young people? Is all technology good? How do we evaluate it? How do we manage it? As digital media becomes more embedded in the collections and services that libraries offer young people, information professionals must consider the issues in order to deliver the best service possible. These are some of the questions that we will explore in this class.

Technology in the Lives of Children and Youth

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Identify new developments in technology.
- Evaluate and be able to use electronic resources for children (virtual reality, websites, computer games)
- Apply new technologies to library services and programming for children.
- Discuss the key issues surrounding technology in the lives of children today and tomorrow.

Course Content:

- Effects of media on children
- Technology in everyday life: toys to television
- Social networking/cyber bullying
- Privacy and children
- Immersive technologies and children
- Information literacy instruction in children's/YA public libraries
- Digital libraries for children
- Evaluation of digital resources for children
- Children's information behavior
- The digital divide and social equity issues
- Global perspectives: Technology in young people's lives around the world
- Future trends: What's next?

Readings*:

1. Selection of chapters and articles posted in Blackboard or on reserve in ULS.
2. Ito, Mizuko. *Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out: Kids Living and Learning with New Media*. The MIT Press, 2010.
3. Lennon, Stella. *Invisible 1 (The Amanda Project)*. New York: Harper Teen, 2009.
4. Palfrey, John and Gasser, Urs. *Born Digital: Understanding the first generation of digital natives*. New York: Basic Books, 2008
5. Riordan, Rick. *The Maze of Bones (Book One: The 39 Clues)*. New York: Scholastic, 2008.

*Readings are to be completed before class.

Technology in the Lives of Children and Youth

Teaching Methods

- Lecture and demonstration
- Readings
- Group discussion (in-class and online)
- Student presentations
- Site visits

Academic Integrity

- Students are expected to maintain a high level of integrity in all their work. All students are expected to have read and understood, and to follow the *Student Obligations for Academic Integrity*. (<http://www.sis.pitt.edu/academics/integrity.html>).
 - **Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of "F" (failure).**
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Evaluation

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|---|-----|
| • Engagement - contribution to in-class or online discussion, attendance or evidence of viewing video. | 15% |
| • Reflections on the readings (4 reflections @ 500 words each). | 20% |
| • Teen Tech Week @ SIS (E-Poster presentation of a new programming idea for Teen Tech Week) - groups of two-three.* | 15% |
| • Online book discussion 1: <i>Invisible i</i> (Lennon), <i>The Maze of Bones</i> (Riordan) | 10% |
| • Online book discussion 2: Hanging out, messing around, and geeking out (Ito) | 10% |
| • Digital storytelling project – groups of two-three.* | 15% |
| • Final thought paper (5-6 pages, not including title page and references) | 15% |

*PEER-REVIEW FORMS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL GROUP PROJECTS.

Technology in the Lives of Children and Youth

Policies for Grading

Assignments will be given a letter grade (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C, C-, etc). It is not the policy of the instructor to assign an incomplete ("G") grade unless extenuating circumstances apply (e.g. serious illness, bereavement, accident, "Act of God"). The value of the letter grade is in accordance with standards set by the Provost's Office of the University of Pittsburgh. (<http://www.registrar.pitt.edu/gradingsystem.html>). A superior grade (A, A+) represents academic work that in quality is above and beyond the collective body of student submissions for this class. Time and effort are necessary ingredients for a good grade, but are not the only criteria used in assessment.

| Grading System Graduate Studies at the University of Pittsburgh | | |
|--|------|----------|
| Letter Grade | QPA | Quality |
| A, A+ | 4.00 | Superior |
| A- | 3.75 | |
| B+ | 3.25 | |
| B | 3.00 | Adequate |
| B- | 2.75 | |
| C+ | 2.25 | |
| C | 2.00 | Minimal |
| C- | 1.75 | |
| D+ | 1.25 | |
| D | 1.00 | |
| D- | 0.75 | |
| F | 0.00 | Failure |

General Evaluation Criteria

- Graduate level writing is expected. Proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation at all times.
- Choose a citation style and use it consistently.
- Attribute the intellectual contributions of others. If in doubt about whether to cite, then you should cite.
- Throughout this course, I'll be looking for analytical thinking, not basic description. This means making connections between concepts from the readings, lectures and your personal experiences. This is what makes us professionals and not just technicians.
- A critical stance is important. This does not mean criticizing. Critical thinking is the constant attempt to go beyond "what" and answer the questions "why" and "why not".
- Professional-looking submissions: Organized, objectives clearly stated, content of assignment aligned with objectives. Properly researched and sourced.
- Professional behavior: Respectful interaction.

Technology in the Lives of Children and Youth

Policies for class submissions

- Assignments must be submitted by 5:00 pm on the day they are due.
- Submit assignments to Blackboard using the Assignment Tool, which you can access via the assignment link in the menu.
- Assignments that are submitted after a due date will be marked down unless the student has sought in writing and obtained the permission of the instructor in advance to submit an assignment after its due date. NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR ASSIGNMENTS SUBMITTED FIVE (5) DAYS OR MORE PAST THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE, UNLESS THE INSTRUCTOR DETERMINES THAT EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES APPLY. The instructor may require you to submit corroborating documentation if you are claiming that an extenuating circumstance should be applied.
- Assignments MUST be clearly identified with your name, the class and assignment number:
 - Electronic files: Include in the file name the following details: Your name, the course number, the assignment, the term, the year. (e.g. Lastname_Firstname_Assign1_LIS2633_Fall10)
 - Include a title page. On the title page, provide the following details: The title of your assignment, your name, the course number, the assignment number, the term, the year.
 - On each subsequent page of the assignment, provide a header or footer with the following information: Your name, the course number, the assignment number, the term, the year. (e.g. Lastname_Firstname_Assign1_LIS2633__Fall10)

Special circumstances

- If you have a special need (physical or learning impairments), notify the instructor within the first two weeks of the term in order to make accommodations in the course.
- If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union (412-648-7890/TTY:412-383-7366) as early as possible in the term. You should also consult the office's website www.drs.pitt.edu. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodation for this course.
- If you need to miss a class due to religious observances, please notify the instructor in advance and make alternative arrangements for the material that you miss.

Communication policy

- Respectful interaction with your colleagues, the professor, and all guest speakers is expected.
- You are part of a community of learners. In discussion groups (in-class and online), please listen to your colleagues, read their postings, and respond thoughtfully.
- I will respond to your email as quickly as possible. Email posted to me on a weekend or holiday will be answered no earlier than the first working day following the weekend or holiday. Email posted to me in the evening will not be answered the same evening.
- Please include your **full name** (first name and surname) on all email. I will not reply to emails that aren't signed with your first and last name.
- Dissemination of course materials (video or podcast of lectures, Power Point slide shows, PDFs of readings, etc.): Course materials for this class are only for the use of students registered in this course.

Have a good term!