FYS 019: Digital Global Citizenship
DRAKE UNIVERSITY, FALL 2013
SYLLABUS

Instructor: Eric D. Manley
Class meetings: TR 12:30-1:45pm, FAC 33 & 335
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E-mail: eric.manley@drake.edu
Office hours: MW 2-3:30pm, TR 11am-12pm, and by appt.

Course Description

Most current college students have always lived in a world in which we can digitize almost anything and distribute it to almost anywhere. The developed world is becoming saturated with technology, and the developing world isn’t far behind. In this seminar, we will explore how digitization impacts issues like poverty, education, free speech, and privacy all around the globe. Most of our learning activities will be centered on reading, writing, researching, and discussing these topics. We will also learn introductory programming for Android devices so that students can design and implement smartphone apps that help address global social problems.

Learning Objectives

Our primary objective is to strengthen the writing, critical thinking, and information literacy skills needed for university-level coursework. Additionally, students will enhance their ability to participate in academic discussions and appreciate the role that the creative application of technology plays in problem solving.

Class Meetings

We will spend our class time on a variety of activities including small-group and full-class discussions (on assigned readings, writing assignments, programming content, etc.), programming lab exercises, and peer-review of papers. We also have several meetings set aside for activities related to FYS and service learning programming:

- September 5 (Thursday) in Cowles 45: Introduction to the library, research for first writing assignment
- September 26 (Thursday) in the Sprout Garden: Intro to the garden and service learning project
- October 1 (Tuesday) in Parents Hall: FYS Rally
- October 3 (Thursday) in the Sprout Garden (tentative location): Service learning interviews
- November 5 (Tuesday), location TBA: Service learning project presentations

There are two spaces set aside for our class meetings: FAC 33 (a traditional classroom) and FAC 335 (a computer lab). A class schedule posted to Blackboard will be regularly updated with the meeting location for any given date.
Textbook

Although we will have readings from other sources, several of our readings will come from the book *Blown to Bits* by Abelson, Ledeen, and Lewis. This book is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 United States License, and an electronic copy is available for free at [http://www.bitebook.com/excerpts/](http://www.bitebook.com/excerpts/). If you wish, you can purchase a hard-copy of the book or print out the portions of the book we will read from.

Reading Assignments

Whenever readings are assigned from the textbook or other sources, you are expected to come to class prepared to discuss them. In order to encourage you to come prepared, there will be short quizzes over the readings at the beginning of the class meeting. Some credit will also be awarded based on your participation in the class discussions.

Short Writing Assignments

The first-year seminar is a writing-intensive experience. We will begin this very early in the course with short writing assignments due every 1-2 weeks. In order to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity to learn from each other, any student writing may become the subject of small-group and full-class discussions. Some of the short writing assignments will require that you do some preparatory reading or other research ahead of time, so getting started early is important.

The writing assignments are constructed to sharpen your writing, critical thinking, and information literacy skills; however, individual assignments will each focus on different aspects of these skills. Thus, the grading for each paper may vary. Some of the assignments will use a rubric that will be distributed ahead of time, and some will be scored against the assignment specification.

Writing Workshop

The English Department operates a Writing Workshop which can assist you in your writing. Everyone should feel free to make use of this service. You can make an appointment at [http://artsci.drake.edu/writersworkshop/wwshop.html](http://artsci.drake.edu/writersworkshop/wwshop.html).

Programming

We will be spending some class time learning how to write programs for Android devices using a programming environment called App Inventor. The programming content will be taught through a series of mini lectures, video tutorials, small lab exercises, and two larger programming projects. If you do not finish the lab exercises in class, you will need to complete them on your own outside of class before the due date. You are free to collaborate with each other on lab exercises; however, each person is expected to develop his or her own code individually. Lab exercises will either be graded via an in-class demonstration or via electronic submission of the source code. I will set up a link to submit each such assignment on the course’s Blackboard page.

Service Learning Project

Our seminar will be collaborating with the Sprout Des Moines Urban Youth Learning Garden to create a smartphone-app-based audio tour of the garden. For this project, students will placed into groups that will each develop their own app in collaboration with outside partners. The app development will tie into the programming portion of the class and will count in the same group of points as lab exercises. There will also be writing assignments that tie into the project which will be graded as a normal writing assignment.
Final Project

The final group project will tie together all learning objectives of the course and will serve as a final demonstration of your learning.

Initially, each student will write a proposal for an original smartphone app which helps address some social problem, and several of the projects will be selected (with input from students in the class) for implementation as a final group project. Project reports will require research into a social issue and current initiatives which address it, a description of your app, and an argument demonstrating why your app will help. You will also be required to implement at least part of your app using App Inventor. During the last week of class (and possibly during the final exam time), the groups will present their projects to the class.

Grading

Your coursework will contribute to your final course grade according to the breakdown shown on the left. Letter grades will be assigned as shown on the right.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Writing Assignments</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project Report and App</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes and Programming Exercises</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Class Discussions</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 90</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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Note that there are no midterm nor final exams.

Disability Accommodation

The instructor will be happy to discuss any academic accommodations needed for students with disabilities. However, any student seeking accommodation must coordinate them with Student Disability Services (contact Michelle Laughlin, michelle.laughlin@drake.edu, (515)271-1835). No retroactive accommodations will be made.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to know and abide by the Drake University Academic Integrity Policy.

http://www.drake.edu/studentrecords/academicpolicies/academicintegritypolicy/

Any student work which is prepared with the aid of any source, however minor, must specifically cite those sources and make clear the relationship of the submitted work to the source. All citations must include author names, titles, publication information, and links to electronic sources when they exist. This can be done using any academically acceptable citation mechanism. When in doubt, be open and transparent about the use of sources. This will shift the issue away from a question of dishonesty to a question of how many points to award.

The minimum penalty for a first violation of academic integrity will be a forfeiture of all points on the entire assignment. A second violation will result in a grade of ‘F’ for the course. All violations will be reported to the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s office as explained in the Academic Integrity Policy.