

INF161: Discussion Sections/Writing Workshops

Term Paper Logistics

TA: Jed Brubaker
Email: jed.brubaker@uci.edu (please include "INF161" in your subject lines)
Office: LUCI Lab (5th Floor, DBH)
Office Hours: Encouraged, but by appointment.
Calendar online at: <http://www.jedbrubaker.com/calendar>

Schedule

Meeting 1 (10/6, 10/13, 10/20): Topic Brainstorming and Selection

Your group will meet to brainstorm topics and help you scope your project to a reasonable size.

- * Topics are due the day before your meeting.

Meeting 2 (10/27, 11/3, 11/10): Research and References

We will review your team's research, assess how it speaks to your topic, and get started on an outline.

- * Topic and research summaries are due the day before your meeting.
- * Paper outline with topic summary is due one week after your meeting.

Part 3 (11/17, 11/23*, 12/1): Writing

You have an outline, and writing is underway. This meeting will focus on structure, mechanics, and writing style.

- * Please send a draft two days prior to your meeting.

Deliverables

Topic Brainstorming and Selection

Each team member will send a list of 3 potential topics or issues with a brief (1-2 sentences) description/explanation for each item. These can be specific issues or broad areas, but be sure to explain your interests.

An example:

Online Surveillance: *I am interested in the way that information is tracked online. I might be interested in looking at browser cookies for advertising, or maybe issues like AT&T giving the government access to our communication records.*

Tip: Dr. Dourish is very flexible on topics, so be sure to choose topics you are interested in. If you have questions, send me a note.

* Note that these discussion sections take place on Tuesday during the regularly scheduled lecture time. We are doing this because we love you/hate turkeys and recognize that many of you will want to be elsewhere the day before Thanksgiving. Please make your holiday plans with this in mind.

Research and References

Each team member will send a list of *at least* 3 article summaries on your group's research topic. The point of these summaries is to share your work with your group, and with me. It is not a report, and pulling helpful quotes is encouraged.

Things to include:

1. Citation
2. URL for the article (so your teammates can find it)
3. Summary (including the following, as appropriate):
 - * What is the author arguing, and to whom?
 - * What evidence or support does s/he provide for this argument?
 - * Useful or key quotes

An example article summary:

Bell G. 2006. No More SMS For Jesus: Ubicomp, Religion, and Techno-spiritual Practices. In Proc. Of Ubicomp 2006. 141-158. Springer-Verlag.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/a3723443x1870j72/>

Bell's paper is about emergent spiritual and religious practices involving technology. This includes Christians texting "Jesus," Mormons on the web, Chinese burning cellphones at tombs, and Muslims who use SMS before prayer to orient themselves toward Mecca. She introduces the term "techno-spiritual practices" and is interested in how spiritual practices might inform ubiquitous computing and design.

"I have provided examples of the many ways in which new technologies can and do deliver religious experiences; they are the leading edge of a much larger repurposing of computing and the Internet. Religion proves a useful vantage point from which to explore how much social and cultural institutions and practices are occasioned in and through technology." (p155)

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all of your sources. This project will involve more exploration before and after this meeting. Send what you think are the most important sources you have found in order to help your team develop a working outline.

Outline and Draft

More information on outlines and drafts will be available at Meeting #2.

Group Dynamics

You have two new friends! Introduce yourselves soon. This is a collaborative project. The more you work together the more you will enjoy this project and produce an excellent paper.

You may also send me a team name provided it is quirky and more interesting than Group #17. "Purple Buffalos," for example, is far more memorable.