

Modern Problems of Belief: Digital Religion

Syllazine

REL 207-1, Fall 2011

MHRA 1210, MW 15:30-16:45

Contact Information


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Office Hours By Appointment Or Accident

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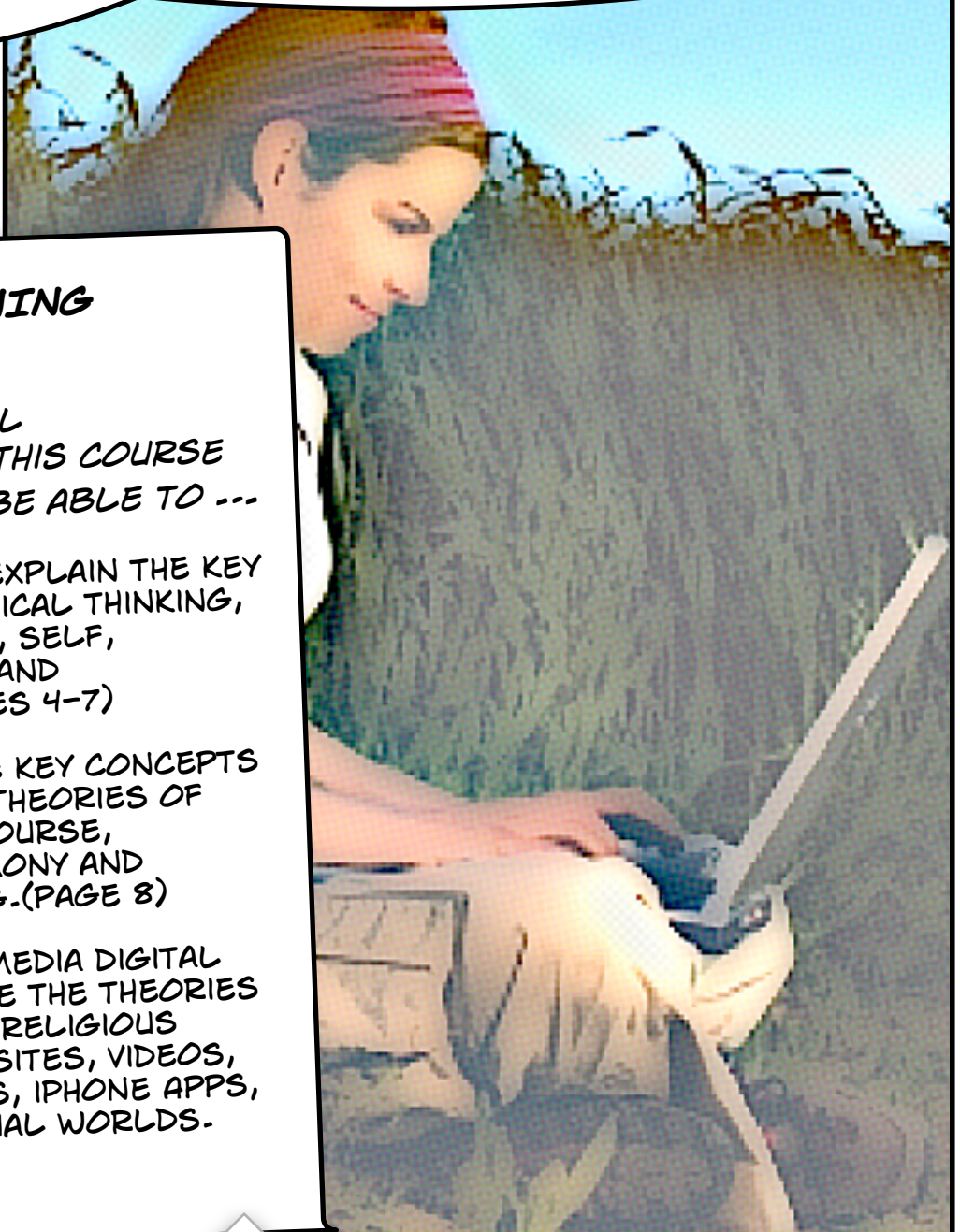
DESCRIPTION: “Modern Problems of Belief: Digital Religion” is a discussion-based, hands-on, interdisciplinary study of digital media and their relationship to religious practice. The course is intended for Religious Studies majors and non-majors who are interested in how religious practice is being transformed and challenged by digital technologies. In the course you will not only develop the skill of writing academic analysis, but also of creating online multi-media scholarly objects. Although helpful, no prior religious studies or media studies courses or knowledge is required or expected.



**STUDENT LEARNING
OUTCOMES:**

*UPON SUCCESSFUL
COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE
STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO ---*

1. DESCRIBE AND EXPLAIN THE KEY CONCEPTS OF CRITICAL THINKING, RELIGION, DIGITAL, SELF, PRACTICE, BELIEF AND COMMUNITY. (PAGES 4-7)
2. ANALYZE THESE KEY CONCEPTS BY APPLYING THE THEORIES OF SEMIOLOGY, DISCOURSE, IDEOLOGY, HEGEMONY AND CULTURE JAMMING. (PAGE 8)
3. CREATE MULTIMEDIA DIGITAL OBJECTS THAT USE THE THEORIES TO EVALUATE THE RELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF WEBSITES, VIDEOS, COMPUTER GAMES, IPHONE APPS, AND ONLINE VIRTUAL WORLDS. (PAGES 12-15)



EVALUATION AND GRADING



ASSIGNMENTS

* AUGUST 24-SEPTEMBER 21

Reading Responses 10 points (SLO 1)

* MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Midterm 17 points (SLO 1)

* MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

Semiotic Analysis 14 points (SLO 1,2)

* WEDNESDAY, OCT 19

Wordpress Response 3 points (SLO 1,2,3)

* WEDNESDAY, OCT 26

YouTube Response 3 points (SLO 1,2,3)

* MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Group Video Game Response 3 points (SLO 1)

* NOVEMBER 7-NOVEMBER 17

Fieldnotes 4 points (SLO 1)

* MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28 SECOND LIFE

Group Ethnographic Analysis 3 points (SLO 1,2)

* MONDAY, NOV 28 SECOND LIFE GROUP

Ethnographic Presentations 5 points (SLO 1,2,3)

* MONDAY, DEC 5 PROPOSAL

Final Project 3 points (SLO 1,2,3)

* FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 GROUP FINAL

Project 30 points (SLO 1,2,3)

* FRIDAY DECEMBER 9 GROUP FINAL

Presentation 5 points (SLO 1,2,3)

TOTAL 100 POINTS

The Fine Print

1. You are in this class as a privilege, not a right. I reserve the right to dismiss you from the class at any time for behavior that I perceive to be disruptive. Such a dismissal will count as an absence, and you must see me outside of class and receive permission before returning.

2. There are no excuses (*see attendance policy below*). If you are having a problem please come see me BEFORE it causes you to miss a class.

3. You must come to class prepared, with a notebook, pen and a printout of the day's reading and/or assignment. If not prepared you will be asked to leave, and it will count as an absence (*see attendance policy below*).

4. All work must be turned in on time. If one of your assignments is missing, you will receive a failing grade for the entire course.

5. Unless otherwise noted, all work must be turned in as a hard copy, typed in black ink, on white paper, with 12 inch font.

6. While frowned upon, all work but the mid-term and final presentation may be turned in late for half credit. Unless arrangements are made BEFORE, and the mid-term and final presentation may not be turned in late.

7. You will be collaborating together in teams, so part of your grade will depend upon your ability to work with others. If other members of your team do not feel that you are pulling your weight, you may be "fired," and you will have to complete the project on your own.

8. Unless we are in the computer lab, or working on a group project, computers or other digital devices may not be used in class (If you have special needs please come and see me).

9. All phones and other communication devices must be turned off before class — If your phone rings, or if you text during class it will count as an absence (*see attendance policy below*).

10 No food in class. Eating in class counts as an absence (*see attendance policy below*).

11. Tardiness of more than ten minutes is considered an absence (*see attendance policy*).

TEACHING METHODS :

THIS SYLLABUS IS A ROADMAP AND NOT A CONTRACT. I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ALTER ANY ASSIGNMENTS AS I SEE FIT, AND WILL MAKE THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH EMAIL AND ON THE BLACKBOARD SITE. YOUR FINAL EVALUATION IS QUALITATIVE AS WELL AS QUANTITATIVE, AND I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO USE MY PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT WHEN EVALUATING YOU BOTH ON INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS AND ON YOUR FINAL GRADE.

IN THE COURSE WE WILL READ, DISCUSS, ANALYZE, EVALUATE AND/OR CREATE WRITTEN ESSAYS, WEBSITES, VIDEOS, FILMS, VIDEO GAMES AND ONLINE VIRTUAL WORLDS. WE WILL LEARN TO DESCRIBE AND EXPLAIN THE KEY CONCEPTS OF CRITICAL THINKING, RELIGION, DIGITAL, SELF, PRACTICE, BELIEF AND COMMUNITY. BY ENGAGING IN-CLASS DISCUSSIONS, GROUP-WORK, STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES, WE WILL GAIN THE ABILITY TO ANALYZE DIGITAL RELIGION BY APPLYING THE THEORIES OF SEMIOLOGY, DISCOURSE, IDEOLOGY, HEGEMONY AND CULTURE JAMMING. WE WILL ALSO DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF WRITING ACADEMIC ESSAYS, AND CREATING WEBSITES, VIDEOS AND OTHER



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY: EACH STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO SIGN THE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY ON ALL MAJOR WORK SUBMITTED FOR THE COURSE. REFER TO THE UNCG UNDERGRADUATE BULLETIN/GRADUATE BULLETIN.

<http://web.uncg.edu/reg/Bulletin/Current/AcaRegs/AcademicIntegrity.aspx>

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN EVERY CLASS; AFTER SIX ABSENCES YOU WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE. ABSENCES WILL ONLY BE EXCUSED WITH A WRITTEN DOCUMENT —THIS INCLUDES DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENTS AND FUNERALS.

REQUIRED SECONDARY READINGS

READINGS (THESE ARE AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD, AND MUST BE PRINTED AND BROUGHT TO CLASS. NOT HAVING A PRINTED COPY IN CLASS COUNTS AS AN ABSENCE):

- R1: Horace Miner. "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema." *The Insider/Outsider Problem in the Study of Religion* (London: Cassell, 1999), 1-4.
- R2: Mark Muesse. "Religious Studies and 'Heaven's Gate': Making the Strange Familiar and the Familiar Strange." First published in *Chronicle of Higher Education* (April 25, 1997). Reprinted in Russell T. McCutcheon, ed., *The Insider/Outsider Problem in the Study of Religion* (London: Cassell, 1999), 390-94.
- R3: Gregory Grieve. "Religion: The Quest to Define Digital Practice." In *Digital Religion: Understanding Religious Practice in New Media Worlds*. Edited by Heidi Campbell. New York: Routledge, [In Press].
- R4: Stewart Hover. "From Medium to Message: The Evolution of Theories about Media, Religion, and Culture." *Religion and the Media Age* (New York: Routledge, 2006).
- R5: Tony Blackshaw. *Zygmunt Bauman* [excerpts]. (London: Routledge), 37-49.
- R6: Zygmunt Bauman. *Liquid Love* [excerpts] (London: Polity, 2000), 4-15.
- R7: Gregory Grieve. "There is no Spoon? The Matrix, Ideology, and The Spiritual Logic of Late Capital." *Teaching Religion and Film*. Ed. Greg Watkins. American Academy of Religion's Religious Studies Series Teaching. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 190-200.
- R8: Jason Shim. "'Til Disconnections Do We Part: The Initiation and Wedding Rite in *Second Life*," *Halos and Avatars Playing Video Games with God*. Ed. Craig Detweiler. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Know Press, 2010).
- R9: David Morgan. "Introduction: The Matter of Belief" [unpublished manuscript]
- R10: Gregory Grieve. "Imagining a Virtual Religious Community: Neo-pagans on The Internet," *Chicago Anthropology Exchange* 7 (1995): 98-132.
- R11: Michael O'Shaughnessy and Jane Stadler. "Semiology," & "Reading Images." *Media and Society: An Introduction*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 111-137.
- R12: Michael O'Shaughnessy and Jane Stadler. "Defining Discourse and Ideology," & "Where are Discourses and Ideologies Found?" *Media and Society: An Introduction*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 149-170.
- R13: Michael O'Shaughnessy and Jane Stadler. "Dominant Ideology." *Media and Society: An Introduction*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 171-187.
- R14: Michael O'Shaughnessy and Jane Stadler. "Culture Jamming and Counter-Hegemony." *Media and Society: An Introduction*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 188-203.
- R15: Heidi Campbell. "Spiritualising the Internet: Uncovering Discourses and Narratives of Religious Internet Usage." Online—Heidelberg Journal of Religions on the Internet 1.1 (2005) <http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/volltextserver/volltexte/2005/5824/pdf/Campbell4a.pdf>
- R16: Rick Broida. "Make Your Own Video Mashups for YouTube: Put the 'you' in YouTube with this hands-on guide to shooting, editing, and uploading your own movies and mashups." *PCWorld*: Mar 12, 2008. http://www.pcworld.com/article/143321/make_your_own_video_mashups_for_youtube.html
- R17: James Trier. "'Cool' Engagements with YouTube: Part 2," *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*. 50 (2007): 598-603.
- R18: Jesper Juul. "Without a Goal: On Open and Expressive Games." In Tanya Krzywinska and Barry Atkins (eds): *Videogame/Player/Text*. Manchester: Manchester University Press 2007. <http://www.jesperjuul.net/text/withoutagoal/>
- R19: Rachel Wagner. "The Play is the Thing: Interactivity from Bible Fights to Passions of Christ," *Halos and Avatars Playing Video Games with God*. Ed. Craig Detweiler. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Know Press, 2010).
- R20: Gregory Grieve. "Virtual Worlds, Second Life, and Metaverse Platforms: New Communication and Identity Paradigms" In *Virtual Worlds, Second Life, and Metaverse Platforms: New Communication and Identity Paradigms*. Edited by Nelson Zagalo. Hershey, PA: IGI Global 2011.
- R21: Kerstin Radde-Antweiler. "'Virtual Religion': An Approach to a Religious and Ritual Topography of Second Life." Online—*Heidelberg Journal of Religions on the Internet* 1.1 (2008) <http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/ojs/index.php/religions/article/view/393>
- R22: Clifford Geertz. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture." In *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. (New York: Basic Books, 1973), 3-30.
- R23: Sherry Turkle. "Identity Crisis." In *Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet*. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995), 225-270.

**YOU
HAVE TO
PRINT
THESE
AND
BRING
TO
CLASS!**



DATA

WEBSITES:

"Heavens Gate," <http://www.heavensgate.com/>
"Heaven's Gate Cult Initiation Tape Part 1," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqSZhwu1Rwo>
"The Nacirema," <http://www.beadsland.com/nacirema/>
"Barbeque Area Part 1," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyEYqb7L48o>
"The Holy See," <http://www.vatican.va/>
"Scientology," <http://www.scientology.org/>
"Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster," <http://www.venganza.org>
"National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing," <http://www.nascar.com/>
Arthur Conan Doyle. A Study in Scarlet (Chapters 1.1-1.3) <http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/DoyScar.html>
"Second Life Wedding Of Bryan Babii and Diva Basevi March 20, 2009" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_oTcgjCr3s
Simon Jenkins, "Rituals in Online Church" (<http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/volltextserver/volltexte/2008/8291/pdf/jenkins.pdf>)
"Church of Fools," <http://churchoffools.com/>
"Handfasting At The Forest Of Samhain" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inMSdH3-VY4>
"Celtic Cruix," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inMSdH3-VY4>
"Wiccan Handfasting," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfteHKgRJRE&feature=related>
Wordpress, <http://wordpress.com/>
<http://www.youtube.com/editor>
ClipNabber. http://clipnabber.com/clipnabber_classic.php
"Spirituality and Religion Conference in Second Life," http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jm9xYWYUxI4&feature=player_embedded#at=16
"Understanding Islam through Virtual Worlds: Collaboration, Culture and Community," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sr2Scu-vQp4&feature=related>
"A guided tour of spirituality in Second Life," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huQtY79xsNY&feature=related>
"The Anglican Church in Second Life," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgBJHqUu9-U&feature=related>
"Second Life - PRAYER FOR BURMESE DEAD," http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvI9RrBLHEM&feature=player_embedded
"The Apps of the Apostles." <http://www.ship-of-fools.com/gadgets/apps/index.html>

FILMS, TELEVISION PROGRAMS, AND VIDEOS:

Sherlock. Episode no. 1 ["Study in Pink"], first broadcast 25 July 2010 by BBC. Directed by Paul McGuigan and written by Steven Moffat.
Eric Rohmer, director. *Pauline at the Beach* (1983)
Wachowski Brothers, directors. *The Matrix* (1999)
Bill Corcoran, Director. *Left Behind II: Tribulation Force* (2002)

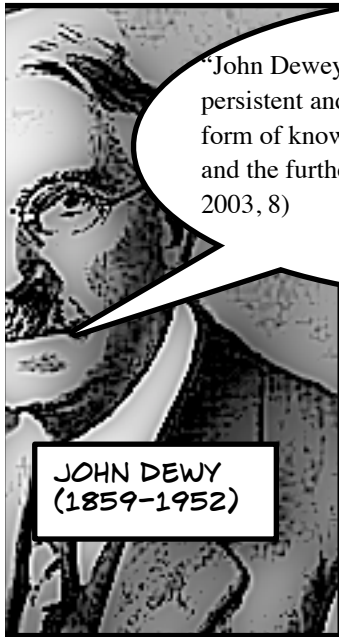
VIDEO GAMES:

SID MEIER'S CIVILIZATION IV (2005)
LEFT BEHIND (2006)

PROMPT

D. F. Halpern. *Thought and Knowledge: An Introduction to Critical Thinking*. (Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2003).
Jonathan Z. Smith. *Imagining Religion: From Babylon to Jonestown*. (Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, 1988).
Marshall McLuhan. *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*. (New York McGraw Hill, 1964).
Jean-François Lyotard. *La Condition Postmoderne: Rapport sur le Savoir*. (Paris: Les Editions de Minuit, 1979).
Arnold van Gennep. *Le folklore du Dauphiné (Isère) Étude descriptive et comparée de psychologie populaire*. (Paris: [Librairie orientale et américaine, 1932](#)).
Colleen McDannell. *Material Christianity: Religion and Popular Culture in America*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995).
Benedict Anderson. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. (New York: Versen, 1983)

1. LOGGING ON: DESCRIBING AND EXPLAINING



JOHN DEWEY
(1859-1952)

"John Dewey defined critical thinking as, 'Active, persistent and careful consideration of a belief or supposed form of knowledge in light of the grounds that support it, and the further conclusions to which it tends' (Halpern, 2003, 8)

READINGS: R1_(MINER, 1999)
(PRINT)

R2_(MUESSE, 1999) (PRINT)

DATA: "HEAVENS GATE,"
HTTP://
WWW.HEAVENSGATE.COM/
"HEAVEN'S GATE CULT

INITIATION TAPE
PART 1," HTTP://
WWW.YOUTUBE.C
OM/WATCH?
V=AQSZHWU1RWO

"THE NACIREMA," HTTP://
WWW.BEADSLAN
D.COM/
NACIREMA/

"BARBEQUE AREA PART 1,"
HTTP://
WWW.YOUTUBE.C
OM/WATCH?
V=UYEYQB7L480

ASSIGNMENT: READING
RESPONSES 1 AND 2 (BRING
TO CLASS)

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 24:

WHAT IS THE ROLE
OF CRITICAL
THINKING IN
RELIGIOUS
STUDIES?

J.-Z. SMITH

READINGS:
R3_(GRIEVE, [IN-PRESS])
(PRINT)

DATA: "THE HOLY SEE,"
[HTTP://WWW.VATICAN.VA/](http://www.vatican.va/)
"SCIENTOLOGY," [HTTP://WWW.SCIENTOLOGY.ORG/](http://www.scientology.org/)
"CHURCH OF THE FLYING
SPAGHETTI MONSTER"
[HTTP://WWW.VENGANZA.ORG](http://www.venganza.org)
"NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR STOCK CAR AUTO
RACING," HTTP://
WWW.NASCAR.COM/

ASSIGNMENT: READING
RESPONSE 3 (BRING TO
CLASS)

MONDAY AUGUST 29:

"WHAT IS
RELIGION?"

"The medium is the
message," McLuhan
(1964, 8).

MARSHALL MCLUHAN
(1911-1980)

"...while there is a staggering amount of data, phenomena, of human experiences and expressions that might be characterized in one culture or another, by one criterion or another, as religion — there is no data for religion. Religion is solely the creation of the scholar's study. It is created for the scholar's analytic purposes by his imaginative acts of comparison and generalization. Religion has no existence apart from the academy." - Jonathan Z. Smith (1982, 1)

READINGS: R4_(HOVER,
2006). (PRINT)

DATA: ARTHUR CONAN
DOYLE. A STUDY IN
SCARLET (CHAPTERS
1.1-1.3)

SHERLOCK. EPISODE NO.
1 "STUDY IN PINK"

ASSIGNMENT: READING
RESPONSE 4 (BRING TO
CLASS)

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 31:

"WHAT IS THE
DIGITAL?"

REMEMBER! MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5: NO CLASS (LABOR DAY HOLIDAY)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7:
"WHAT IS THE LIQUID MODERN?"

"Simplifying to the extreme, I define postmodern as incredulity toward metanarratives." (Lyotard: 1979, 7).

READINGS: R5_
(BLACKSHAW, 2005)
(PRINT)
R6_ (BAUMAN, 2003)
(PRINT)

DATA: ERIC ROHMER.
PAULINE AT THE BEACH
(1983)

ASSIGNMENT: READING
RESPONSES 5 + 6 (BRING
TO CLASS)

"One's own self is well
hidden from one's own
self; of all mines of
treasure, one's own is the
last to be dug up."

~Friedrich
Nietzsche (1844-1900)

READINGS: R7_ GRIEVE, 2010 (PRINT)

DATA: THE MATRIX (1999)

ASSIGNMENT: READING RESPONSE 7 (BRING
TO CLASS)

JEAN-FRANÇOIS
LYOTARD
(1924-1998)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12:
"WHAT IS THE SELF?"



ARNOLD VAN GENNEP
(1873-1957)

I demonstrated...that all over the world and in all civilizations, from the most primitive to the most evolved, every change of place, of social situation... all innovation and very often even all modification is accompanied...by rites...which always follow the same order and constitute the schema-type of the rites of passage (*Le folklore du Dauphine* 1932).

READINGS: R8_(SHIM, 149)
(PRINT)

DATA: "SECOND LIFE WEDDING
OF BRYAN BABII AND DIVA
BASEVI MARCH 20, 2009"
[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
WATCH?V=A_OTCGJCR3S](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_OTCGJCR3S)

ASSIGNMENT: READING
RESPONSES 8(BRING TO
CLASS)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14:

"WHAT IS RELIGIOUS
PRACTICE?"

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19:


"WHAT IS RELIGIOUS
BELIEF?"

READINGS: R9_(MORGAN [IN
PRESS])(PRINT)

DATA: SIMON JENKINS,
"RITUALS IN ONLINE
CHURCH" ([HTTP://
ARCHIV-UB.UNI-
HEIDELBERG.DE/
VOLLTEXTSERVER/
VOLLTEXTE/2008/8291/
PDF/JENKINS.PDF](http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/volltextserver/volltexte/2008/8291/pdf/jenkins.pdf))

"CHURCH OF FOOLS," [HTTP://
CHURCHOFFOOLS.COM/](http://churchoffools.com/)

ASSIGNMENT: READING
RESPONSE 9 (BRING TO
CLASS)



Unlike historians who generally use visual or artifactual materials only to illustrate themes or topics drawn from written sources, material culture specialists derive meanings from objects themselves by paying attention to the form, distribution, function, and changing character of the objects and their environments"

~ Colleen McDannell
(1995)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21:
"WHAT IS COMMUNITY?"



"All communities larger
than primordial villages
of face-to-face contact
are imagined."

~ Benedict Anderson
(1983: 15)

READINGS: R10_(GRIEVE
1995)(PRINT)

DATA: : "HANDFASTING AT
THE FOREST OF SAMHAIN"

[HTTP://
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
WATCH?V=INMSDH3-VY4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INMSDH3-VY4)

"CELTIC CRUIX," [HTTP://
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
WATCH?V=INMSDH3-VY4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INMSDH3-VY4)

"WICCAN HANDFASTING,"
[HTTP://
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
WATCH?
V=BFTEHKGRJRE&FEATURE=
RELATED](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFTEHKGRJRE&feature=related)

ASSIGNMENT: READING
RESPONSE 10 (BRING TO
CLASS)

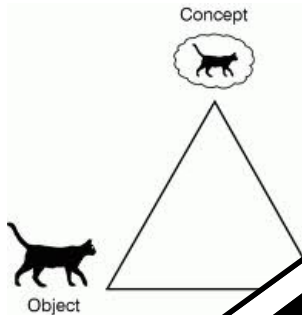
Monday September 26
MIDTERM

2. START MAKING SENSE: ANALYZING AND APPLYING

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28

SEMIOTICS

READINGS: R11_(SHAUGHNESSY AND STADLER, 2006), 111-137.



MONDAY OCTOBER 3

IDEOLOGY

READINGS: R12_(SHAUGHNESSY AND STADLER, 2006), 149-170.



SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS DUE OCTOBER 17



READINGS: R13_(SHAUGHNESSY AND STADLER, 2006), 171-187

Hegemony

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5



SLAVERY



READINGS: R14_(SHAUGHNESSY AND STADLER, 2006), 188-203

Culture Jamming

MONDAY OCTOBER 12

3. PLAYING: EVALUATING AND CREATING

MONDAY OCTOBER 17

Religious Websites 1

HANDS ON: WORDPRESS, [HTTP://WORDPRESS.COM/](http://wordpress.com/)



READINGS: R15_(CAMPBELL, 2005)

ASSIGNMENT: GROUP WORDPRESS RESPONSE DUE

Religious Websites 2

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19

MONDAY OCTOBER 24

RELIGIOUS YOUTUBE 1

READING: R16_ (BRIODA, 2008)

HANDS-ON: [HTTP://
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/EDITOR](http://www.youtube.com/editor)

CLIPNABBER [HTTP://
CLIPNABBER.COM/
CLIPNABBER_CLASSIC.PHP](http://clipnabber.com/clipnabber_classic.php)



You Tube

Broadcast Yourself

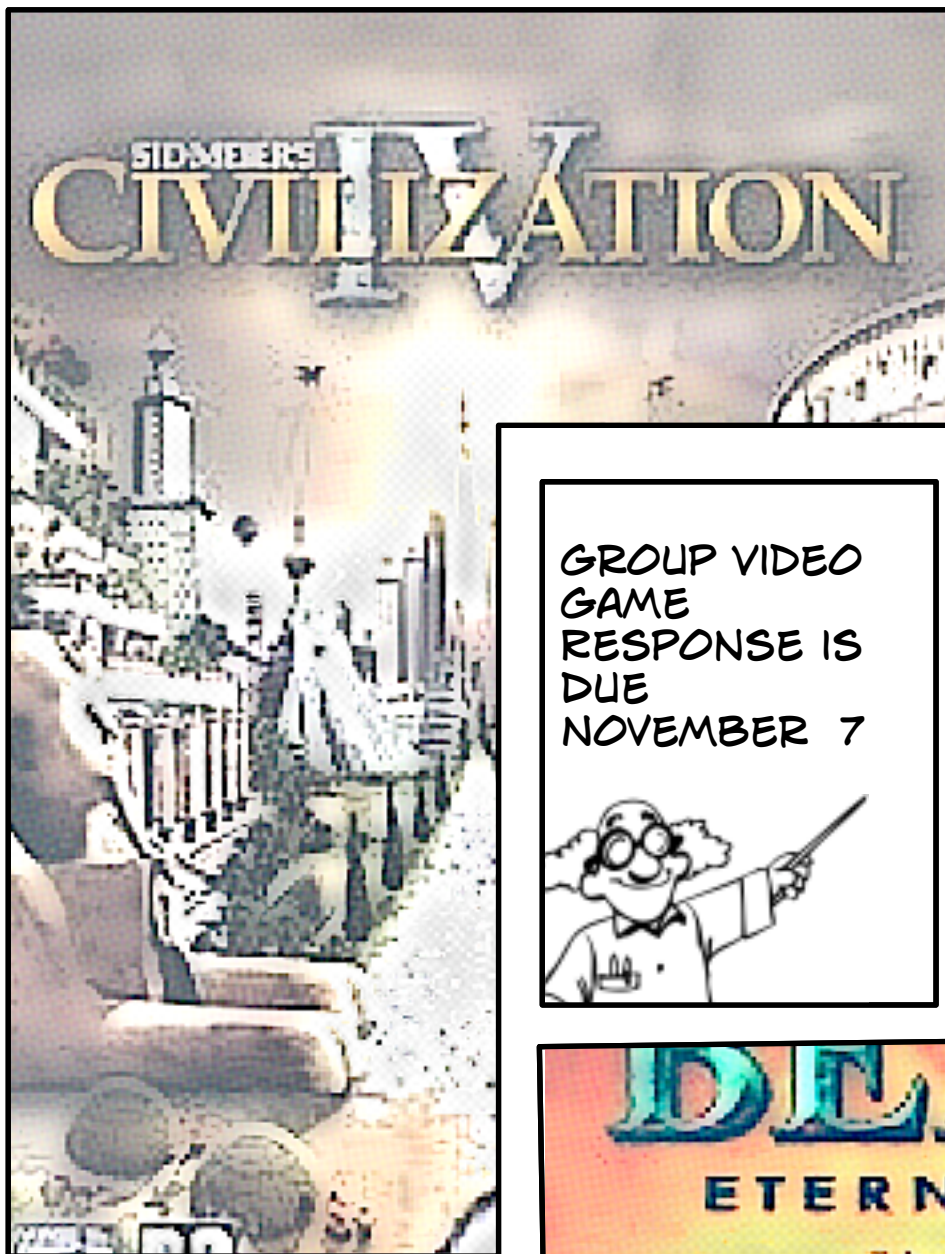
RELIGIOUS YOUTUBE 2

READING: R17_TRIER (2007)

ASSIGNMENT: GROUP YOUTUBE
RESPONSE DUE

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26





WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2

RELIGIOUS VIDEO GAMES II

READ: R19_-(WAGNER, 2010)

PLAY: LEFT BEHIND (2006)

WATCH: LEFT BEHIND II: TRIBULATION FORCE (2002)

GROUP VIDEO
GAME
RESPONSE IS
DUE
NOVEMBER 7



MONDAY OCTOBER 31

RELIGIOUS VIDEO GAMES I

READ: R18_-(JUUL, 2007)

PLAY: SID MEIER'S
CIVILIZATION IV
(2005)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 7:

LOGGING ON

READ: R20_ GRIEVE (2011)

YOUTUBE: "SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGION CONFERENCE IN SECOND LIFE," [HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=JM9XYWYUXI4&FEATURE=PLAYER_EMBEDDED#AT=16](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM9XYWYUXI4&feature=player_embedded#at=16)

QUEST 1: CREATE GROUPS

ASSIGNMENT: FIELDNOTE ENTRY

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9

LIQUID TIME AND PLACE

READ: R21_RADDE-ANTWEILER (2006)

YOUTUBE: "UNDERSTANDING ISLAM THROUGH VIRTUAL WORLDS: COLLABORATION, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY"; "A GUIDED TOUR OF SPIRITUALITY IN SECOND LIFE,"; "THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN SECOND LIFE"; "SECOND LIFE - PRAYER FOR BURMESE DEAD,"

QUEST 2: FIND AND DOCUMENT A LOCATION

ASSIGNMENT: FIELDNOTE ENTRY



SECOND LIFE ETHNOGRAPHY DUE NOVEMBER 28

MONDAY NOVEMBER 14

THICK DESCRIPTION IN A VIRTUAL WORLD

READ: R22_ GEERTZ (1973)

QUEST 3: DESCRIBE AN OBJECT IN YOUR LOCATION USING THICK DESCRIPTION

ASSIGNMENT: FIELDNOTE ENTRY

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17

BE DIFFERENT

READ: R23_TURKLE(1995)

QUEST 4: BE DIFFERENT

ASSIGNMENT: FIELDNOTE ENTRY



MONDAY NOVEMBER 21: THANKSGIVING BREAK
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23: THANKSGIVING BREAK

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28

SECOND LIFE ETHNOGRAPHIC PRESENTATIONS



WEDNESDAY DEC 1

FINAL PROJECT PREPARATIONS

RELIGIOUS APPS

DATA: "THE APPS OF THE
APOSTLES." [HTTP://
WWW.SHIP-OF-
FOOLS.COM/GADGETS/
APPS/INDEX-HTML](http://www.ship-of-fools.com/gadgets/apps/index.html)

Jesus = Phone

FINAL EXAMINATION:

Monday December 5—
Draft for group final projects
due.

Final Exam Period.

Friday December 9,
3:30-6:30

Final Projects and
Final Presentations Due

