H1510: Creating Your Techno-biography

Fall 2008

Instructor: Clement Chau (cchau@mit.edu)

Meeting Time: 3 to 5 PM

What do you remember about using digital media and technology (DMT) as a young child? In grade-school? Now? We are in constant contact with a variety of digital technologies -- from cell phones to MySpace, from American Idol to Heroes -- we almost can't live without them. But, do we ever take time to think about them?

The goal of this course is to explore some new media tools that are available online and to reflect on what we think about these and other things we do on the Internet and with other DMT. The focus will be about how to go from passive consumers of digital media to creative and critical media makers.

Some things we may explore include: Remixes and mash-ups, Avatar characters, Social networking, Blogging and Vlogging. Each week we will explore a different web tool in the form of a web-challenge and use that tool to add to your techno-biography. Students will also have an opportunity to work with experts and share their thoughts with artists and producers as they work on various multimedia projects.

By the end of the course, students will have learned about a variety of new media tools and develop an interactive and visual biography of their lives as creative media makers. In addition, students will create a DMT portfolio and a brief PSA to capture what they've learned in the course.

All course materials will be accessible through a invite-only course Ning website (url: ___)

Research and Permission
This course, I will include some pilot curricular activities that are being developed at MIT. Students will be invited to participate in a feedback study to provide suggestions and share work with the instructor so that activities can be refined for future use. With permission from students, an observer will be present periodically to observe how these pilot curricular activities are being conducted and the results of these activities. **Students who are interesting in this must return a permission form***.*

Course Schedule

Sept 13

Introduction
What is a techno-bio?
What we already do with DMT?
Describe the Techno-Bio project.

Web-Challenge: Appropriation, Remix, and Mash-ups
Techno-bio: Collage - "Digital Media & Technology in My Childhood"
Permission slips: Research Form & Equipment Form

Sept 20

Wrap up and Share Collage
Digital Hunt – DMT around Kendall Square

Web-Challenge: Collective Intelligence and the power of the collaboration
Techno-bio: Photo-Journalism – "A day in my life as a technology user"
Digital Cameras & Instructions

Sept 27

Load and Share photos
"Tell a story in 5 frames"
Finish Photo-Journalism project

Web-Challenge: Visualization and Simulation
Techno-bio: Social Network – My Social Map

Oct 4

Role-Play and Research: Virgin Mobile vs. Church Camp
Role-Play and Research: Walmart vs. Harry Potter

Web-Challenge: Copyright and Me
Techno-bio: Vlog – Choices and Consequences in DMT

Oct 11

---No Class---

Oct 18

Edit and finish Vlog
Share & Pop-corn

Web-Challenge: Trans Means Across
Techno-bio: Photo-Journalism 2 – "A day in my life without DMT"

Oct 25
Share Photo-Journal 2

Web-Challenge: Identity & "The Groups of Our Lives"
Techno-bio: Reflection – What I think about…

Nov 1
Public Service Announcement Video: There's Something About DMT (Day 1)

Web-Challenge: Trillian Dollar Footprint – Privacy and Google Stalk
Techno-bio: My Digital Footprint – Stalk Yourself

Nov 8
Public Service Announcement Video: There's Something About DMT (Day 2)

Web-Challenge: Networking
Techno-bio: Creating my Techno-Biography portfolio

Nov 15
Final Touches & Presentations
Collect Project Portfolio
Sharing and Reflection
Food