What is Identity?: Exploring Techno-logic selves
UN1001-R43: Perspectives on Inquiry
Fall 2009
T, Th 11:05am-12:20pm;
Walker Arts and Humanities 116
Course website: http://hdmc.hu.mtu.edu/courses/anderson/un1001/

CONTACT INFORMATION
Professor: Wendy K. Z. Anderson
Office: 334 Walker Arts and Humanities Center
Phone: 487.3240
Email: wkzander@mtu.edu (this is the best way to reach me)

Office Hours: T, Th 12:30-2pm
I am open to discussing matters pertaining to the course, readings, and your writing; please feel free to contact me via email or phone as well as in person. I hope you will also take advantage of my office hours and email.

COURSE INFORMATION
Required Texts and Materials:
- 1 gig Flashdrive that you bring to class every day.
- Course Readings printed out and brought to class

Course Calendar: http://hdmc.hu.mtu.edu/courses/anderson/un1001/?q=node/1
Calendar is tentative and subject to change. Please check on-line calendar for latest changes. Any hard copy may be obsolete, so be sure to bring it with you to each class to record all changes. Assignments are listed on Blackboard’s calendar with hard submission times enforced by Blackboard.

Description: We will examine how the self is constructed using technological prostheses, such as cell phones and computers, and within technologically mediated environments, such as online Web 2.0 networked spaces like facebook, flickr, blogs, and online and offline gaming environments. We will address the following questions: First, how does technology shape identity? What is the relationship of prosthetic technology to identity? How does a technology’s history and cultural context influence its future uses and developments? Second, how do identity politics shape emerging technologies? What is our responsibility for our use and development of new media technologies?

Goals:
- to critically consider the mediated environments we participate in.
- to creatively develop effective oral, written and visual communication.
- to use reasoning and evidence accurately to thoroughly support arguments and complex insights.
- to develop thoughtful consideration of others’ and ideas and positions.
- To compare assumptions, goals, and methodologies of different disciplines.
- to develop effective learning strategies and time management.
- to further MTU’s mission to promote diversity, creativity, leadership, and teamwork.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING
Attendance: Attendance is expected. Come to class on time. You are considered absent if 1) you are more than 15 minutes late and/or 2) you are unprepared for class. Similar to a
job, I expect that if you cannot make class that you will contact me ahead of time and
connect with a peer to get up to speed on what was covered in class.

You are required to sign in when you attend class. You may miss three sessions without
penalty. For every class after the first three, I will lower your final grade by fifty points.
Seven absences constitute automatic failure of the course.

Class participation: In order to accomplish the course goals, you must come to each class
prepared. Participation is one of the most important components to the success of the
course. You are expected to come to class on time, reading carefully and critically, bringing
printed out readings to class, posting on the blog before class, and being prepared to
engage with the ideas and your class. Class investigations are participatory assignments
that include critical and active discussions as well as in-class collaborative work.

To preserve an open environment, our classroom is one of mutual respect between
everyone in the room. Any behavior that creates a hostile classroom environment will not
be tolerated and the party(ies) involved will be asked to leave the class. Since each
classroom is made up of individuals, each student's questions or concerns will be
responded to in an individual manner rather than with a blanket response.

Assignment Expectations: All readings, blog comments, and papers are to be completed
prior to class and solely by the student (unless other instructed as collaborative work). You
are expected to submit assignments on Blackboard by the deadlines listed. All typed work
is due at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. In order to be considered for a
grade, all assignments are to be complete and must conform to MLA, APA, or Chicago style
documentation and format (word-processed, Times New Roman, 12 point legible font,
double-spacing, with one inch margins). Late assignments will only be accepted with the
specific prior agreement of the instructor. No exceptions.

In terms of minor assignment, you are expected to comment twice a week on blog posts
over the semester in response to the readings and class discussion. You are expected to
comment twice a week on the blog in response to the readings and class discussion. I
expect you to post a weblog entry for each reading assigned in class, whether or not you
choose to attend the in-class session. To receive a B on the weblog portion of your grade,
your entries must be complete and posted in a timely fashion. To receive an A your entries
must also be well-written with strong evidence for support. As a rule posts should be
about 2-3 paragraphs in length. Blog posts should be responses to the readings and/or
discussions.

In terms of major assignments, you will be required to complete an Identity paper (100
points), a Favorite Technology paper (100 points), an Avatar Portfolio Presentation and
Paper (100 points), and a Game Play with Mediated Identity paper (100 points) with peer
critiques for each assignment. Please keep a flashdrive with all your work for the course
for your Portfolio. You will submit your portfolio at the end of the semester with all major
work (revisions) and a reflection paper. Be sure you keep your copies of all work with my
original comments on them.

I reserve the right to give unannounced quizzes or assignment at anytime to test the
preparedness of the class as a whole. These minor exercises will make up the remaining
hundred points of the class total.
### Assignment Number Point Allocation Total points per category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Point Allocation</th>
<th>Total points per category</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blog Posts</td>
<td>2 per week</td>
<td>50 every 3-4 weeks</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identity</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favorite Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avatar Portfolio</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Game Play</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drafts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Critique</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library &amp; Lab</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Points</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td><strong>Course Total:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1000 points</strong></td>
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**Grade Scale:** Your points will be translated into percentages; your final grade will be calculated according to the following percentage scale:

- 1000-930 A
- 929-870 AB
- 869-830 B
- 829-770 BC
- 769-730 C
- 729-670 CD
- 669-600 D
- 599-below F

**Note about Incompletes:** The mark of 'I' is inappropriate if, in the instructor's judgment, it will be necessary for the student regularly to attend subsequent sessions of the class. I will give an Incomplete only in cases of extreme emergency.

After reviewing the grade breakdown above, students should choose an overall grade goal that illustrates the effort he or she plans to put into all his or her assignments. I am an instructor with high expectations. If you intend to earn an “A” in this class, expect to work hard. I encourage you to ask questions about each assignment and bring in drafts of papers to ensure you meet expectations. For more information about the grading rubric, see course website.

If you wish to discuss a grade on any assignment or presentation, you must wait 24 hours after I return the critique AND come to my office to discuss your concern. This time will allow us to process any relevant information and prepare for our discussion. If you approach me in class with a concern I will refer you to my office hour and appointment times. Also, according to the Family Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) any student's grade will not be discussed with anyone other than the individual student (including family members).

**UNIVERSITY POLICY**

**Discrimination:** Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you
have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 487-3310.

**MTU Disability Services:**
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability

**MTU Equal Opportunity Statement:**

**MTU Affirmative Action:** http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aaq/

**Academic Dishonesty:**
- **Cheating:** All written work submitted for a grade in this course must be the product of your own composition. Ideas generated due to reading and group discussion may provide the inspiration for your work, but should not be the sole ideas represented. With collaborative projects, of course, ideas should be representative of the group's work.

- **Plagiarism:** Students are responsible for reading and understanding the University policy on Cheating and Plagiarism set forth in Michigan Technological University at http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.htm1.

- **Respect:** Insults, slurs, or attacks of any kind will not be allowed in my class. Any student who engages in this type of behavior in the classroom will be permanently removed from the class. In other words, forced to drop the course, in addition to other possible punishment given by Michigan Technological University (See the MTU Community Code of Conduct at http://www.sa.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/code/conduct9.html).

**MTU's Academic Integrity:**
http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html

**RESOURCES**

**The Writing Center:** The MTU Writing Center (Walker Arts & Humanities Room 107) is a superb resource. The staff is willing to help no matter what stage you're at in your paper, from brainstorming to putting on the final touches. Since writing a good paper entails having other people looking at it and giving you feedback, visits to the Writing Center are highly recommended. See http://www.hu.mtu.edu/wc/ for more information.

**Library Website:** http://www.lib.mtu.edu/

**Online Documentation Websites:** http://owl.english.purdue.edu/