



Photo credits: 1. Robin Stevens, 2011, "Benjamin Franklin at his printing press." 2. Dr. Meir Finkle, 2011, "A very old phone." 3. Cujan, 2007, "Inside my computer." 4. Josh Bancroft, 2008, "iPhone Posse (and a Nokia N95)."

FALL 2023 MSP 3421

Technology and Culture

Professor: Dr. Adrienne Shaw

Contact:

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Slack: @Dr.Shaw

Office Hours: T/Th 12-1pm or by appointment; See Canvas for details.

Email/Slack DM Hours: M-F 10am-12pm

T/TH—3:30-4:50—ONLINE: ZOOM—3 CREDITS

Course Description: This course critically examines the nature, role, and significance of new communication technologies in contemporary (largely) U.S. culture. It considers the relationship between these technologies and popular conceptions of work, leisure, art, knowledge, identity, and environment and thus provides a foundation for understanding the nature, role, and significance of new communication technologies as a dynamic factor in society. We will examine socio-cultural imperatives that shape the development of new information/ communication technologies in addition to the socio-cultural influences of those technologies. We will explore the nature of technology in general to understand what it is and how it is linked closely with cultural change. The course also addresses the social history of technology in terms of the philosophies, politics, and economics surrounding the creation of new technologies.

During the course students will engage in classroom and online discussions, critical reading activities, original research, and Wikipedia editing. These assignments are meant to both embed them in the use of the technologies they will be analyzing as well as develop a broad set of research, writing, and communication skills.

Prerequisites: Starting Fall 2021: Minimum grade of C- in MSP 1021, MSP 1655, and MSP 1701 OR CMST 2111; May not be taken concurrently. If you were enrolled prior to Fall 2021: Minimum Grade of C- in MSP 1011 AND MSP 1021 OR CMST 2111; May not be taken concurrently.

Class Meeting Structure:

We will meet on Zoom during scheduled class time (Tues/Thurs 3:30-4:50) for discussion and activities. Lectures will be pre-recorded and you can watch them ahead of time but I will always set aside the star of class for you to watch them. There are also required asynchronous discussion activities on Slack.

Zoom meeting: <https://temple.zoom.us/j/92352807785>

Course Slack Team: <https://msp3421techandculture.slack.com>

WikiEdu:

[https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/courses/Temple_University/Technology_and_Culture_\(Fall_2023\)](https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/courses/Temple_University/Technology_and_Culture_(Fall_2023))

Canvas has all detailed course policies, assignments, readings, grades, etc.

Fall 2023 Academic Calendar: The last day to add/drop a full term 16-week course is Monday, September 11th. The last day to withdraw is **Monday, December 11th.**

Course objectives:

Students in this course will learn to:

1. Critically discuss the relationship between communication technologies and culture.
2. Summarize academic texts, including learning to identify arguments and research methods
3. Conduct original research on a topic related to the course content

Assignments:

Your first assignment is due the first day of class! Review the Day One assignment instructions on Canvas!

Your assignments will require that you make use of a variety of communication channels (including checking your email/Slack regularly). You will be required to make 2 accounts: **Wikipedia** and **Slack**. For Wikipedia do not use your legal name for your username (it can be your display name in WikiEdu). For Slack use your first name (the one you want me to call you) and last initial. **See additional instructions for both on Canvas.**

If you do not have reliable access to the Internet or a computer, talk to me at the beginning of the semester.

Slack:

This is where I will make announcements about the course, post relevant links, post video lectures, and answer any of your non-personal questions about course materials, assignments, etc. in Slack. **Please check Slack each day.** See Canvas for the Slack set up assignment instructions.

Discussion Questions: On our Slack there is a channel called **#discussion-questions**. You are required to submit **one** discussion question about that day's readings, no later than **NOON before each class session** (you can post early). **THESE CANNOT BE ACCEPTED LATE.** The questions should reflect active engagement with the readings. **Always** label questions with the day of class and reading they are about. You must submit questions for **24** class days to earn full credit. **You only receive credit for one question per class day.** Any questions beyond the minimum will count as extra

credit. In addition, you are required to **post responses to your classmates' discussion questions on Slack by 11:59pm each Friday**** (2 per class day, 24 class days' worth for full credit).

Wikipedia:

In lieu of a traditional research paper, this semester you will be learning how to edit Wikipedia, and contribute to (or create) Wikipedia articles. Each student will be required to pick ONE Wikipedia article to edit or create. The final **contribution** as well as a reflection **paper** on the experience will constitute the "final project" for this course. You will have to do ongoing independent library research to add information to the article. You have weekly trainings/activities due every **Friday by 11:59pm*** as you work towards your final contribution.

Summary Paragraphs:

Each **Friday at 11:59pm*** you will be handing in ONE paragraph (200-250 words) summarizing the main argument, methods, and key evidence from ONE of the week's readings. Please review the instructions on Canvas, as well as the grading rubric. There are 13 total to write, but I will drop the lowest 3 grades giving you the freedom to miss or mess up a few. You must include citations for where in the reading/lecture you found the information you are summarizing for every sentence (yes, even if you are paraphrasing). Submit as Word .doc/.docx to Canvas.

References, titles, and headers are not included in minimum word counts.

More information about all assignments is available on Canvas

Course Engagement:

Active participation is crucial to your learning in this course. You earn your "course engagement" grade by coming to class regularly, respectfully contributing to class discussions, asking questions, engaging in class activities, and offering responses to the course materials either verbally or in text chat. You may also "engage" with the class by continuing discussions from class in Slack. Your engagement will be graded holistically following the rubric on Canvas.

Extra credit: See Canvas for a description of extra credit options.

***BUILT IN GRACE PERIOD: All weekly assignments due Friday at 11:59pm will, no questions asked, be accepted if submitted no later than 10am Monday. IF YOU NEED MORE TIME beyond that, you MUST request an extension per the course lateness policy.**

Grading Rubric based on total points available:

- 930+=A
- 900-929.9= A-
- 870-899.9= B+
- 83-869.9=B
- 800-829.0=B-
- 770-799.9=C+
- 730-769.9=C
- 700-729.9=C-, etc.

A full explanation of the grading policy can be found on Canvas. Everyone starts at zero and is working up to 1000 (you can't have 100% if you haven't done any work).

Assignment Group	Assignment	Due date	Where is it submitted?	Number of submissions	Points
Participation					225 total
	Day One Question	August 29, 3:30 pm	Canvas or Email	1	10
	Slack Set up	Sept 1, 11:59 pm*	Slack	1	15
	Discussion questions	Noon, each class day	Slack	24 days required for full credit	50
	Discussion/Response	Each class day and Fridays 11:59 pm	In class/Slack	24 days required for full credit	50
	Engagement		See rubric on Canvas	Graded holistically	100
Synthesis Paragraphs					200 total
	Paragraphs for weeks 2-15	Every Friday at 11:59pm* starting Sept 8	Canvas	10 (of 13 total, lowest 3 grades will be dropped)	20 each
Wikipedia Assignments					425 total
	25-point Wikipedia trainings/ exercises	Friday at 11:59* pm after weeks 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15	WikiEdu Course	9	25 each
	50-point Wikipedia training/exercises	Friday at 11:59pm* after weeks 3, 4, 6, and 11	WikiEdu Course or Canvas (week 11)	4	50 each
Final project					150 total
	Final Wikipedia contribution	Friday, December 15, 11:59pm*	Wikipedia/WikiEdu Course	50	
	Final Reflection Paper	Friday December 15, 11:59pm*	Canvas	100	
Total					1000

Course Policies

Inclusivity Policy: There is an inclusivity policy on Canvas. You will be asked to sign this at the start of the semester, committing yourself to promoting a safe and inclusive classroom for all students, guests, and instructors.

Recording: I will not be recording live discussions (unless required by DRS accommodations). No one should be recorded without their expressed consent (including instructors). Lectures are pre-recorded and available via Slack.

Technology and Range of Possible Costs: This course has no required course materials that must be purchased, and all assignments can be done without making any purchases. To fully participate in this course, students will need access to a computer or similar device that can access Zoom and (ideally) a microphone, headphones, webcam, and a reliable internet connection. This course uses Zoom, Canvas, Slack, and email regularly. If needed, computers are available through on-campus computer labs including the Tech Center and Annenberg Postproduction. In addition, limited technology resources are available for students who do not have the technology they need for class. See Canvas for more details.

Accommodations and Basic Needs: The need for any accommodations should never get in the way of your access to education. I will do my best to work with any student who requires accommodations and to minimize the access barriers posed by course structures and materials. See Canvas for additional details, contact details for University services, as well provisions for students with children, chronic illness, etc.

Attendance: We will be meeting in live discussion sessions on Zoom Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:50 pm unless otherwise announced. You will not be penalized for missing meetings here. Should you miss a class you can make up those points with additional asynchronous discussion on Slack. Your engagement score will be negatively affected if you never make our live discussions. See Canvas for complete expectations and requirements.

Late Assignments: For **discussion questions and in-class assignments**, those are not useful if not submitted on time thus cannot be accepted late. Most assignments are due on Friday by 11:59pm but have a built-in **grace period** until Monday 10am (see box on previous page). However, if you need more time to complete an assignment contact me no later than Monday 10am and

tell me what date/time you will submit the assignment. **There is no limit on the number of extensions you can request.**

Course policies on Canvas are the most up to date and accurate.

Additional details on all policies can also be found there.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is the representation of someone else's ideas, quotations, or research as your own. It is a form of theft. Examples of plagiarism: buying a paper written by someone else, quoting or summarizing an author's argument without correctly citing them, using ideas found on websites for your assignments without correctly citing them, "borrowing" a classmate's ideas for your own, writing without attribution, and using your own papers for more than one class without explicit consent of all instructors. **PLAGIARISM IS NOT TOLERATED AND WILL CONSTITUTE AN IMMEDIATE FAILURE OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND POSSIBLY THE COURSE.** Instances of plagiarism and/or cheating will be reported to the University Disciplinary Committee at my discretion. The **penalty structure** is listed on the policies section of the Canvas.

All assignments must enclose directly quoted material inside quotation marks, include in-text parenthetical citations for all material drawn from another source (including direct quotations, summaries, and paraphrased material), and include a works cited list. **All citations must be formatted in APA (American Psychological Association) style.** We will discuss ChatGPT in class, but in short AI simply won't be very useful for you to do the assignments in the way you are being asked to do them. If you do use any generative AI in any way, however, you are expect to cite that usage using APA style. A link for how to do so in on the "how to Cite sources" page on Canvas.

Writing: Your ability to communicate effectively in written form comprises a large portion of your success in this class. All written assignments should be professional and well-organized, fully cite all sources, and use textual evidence and exposition. See the "How to write effectively" portion of Canvas for advice on how to do this. You may also seek help from the University Writing Center:

<https://studentsuccess.temple.edu/programs/writing>

Email/Slack: Most course communication will take place through Slack, not email. Check Slack daily for course announcements/updates. You can email me with questions anytime, but note I only respond to student emails/Slack questions during my posted hours. Review the “how to email a professor” page on Canvas.

Student and Faculty Academic Rights and

Responsibilities Policy: Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are 2 inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has a policy on Student and Faculty and Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy #03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link: http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02

Conduct Code: Individuals enrolled in this course are expected to conduct themselves in a civil and respectful manner, both toward their instructor and fellow students. In accordance with Temple’s Student Conduct Code (Policy Number: 03.70.12), acts of misconduct for which students are subject to discipline include, but are not limited to, intentional interference with or disruption of class as well as behavior or conduct which poses a threat to the mental, emotional, or physical well-being of self or others. Non-compliance, interference or resistance to this code is considered actionable when a student fails to comply with a reasonable verbal or written instruction or direction given by a University employee (e.g. instructor, teaching assistant or staff member). In such cases of violation, it is the University employee’s right and responsibly to seek out the appropriate sanctions (e.g. suspension, separation, probation, enrollment restrictions, or expulsion from the University) pursuant to the conduct code policy.

FAQS	
What should I call my professor?	Dr. Shaw
What pronouns does my professor use?	She/her
When/where are my professor’s office hours?	See page 1 and Canvas
Where should I ask questions about assignments, the course, etc.?	Slack #office-hours
Where should I ask for extensions/about my grades?	Email or Slack DMs. Check Canvas for all grades which I update regularly.
When will you answer my emails/Slack message?	During my email/Slack hours. See page 1.
Can I get an extension?	See policies on in this syllabus and on Canvas.
Can I get an excused absence?	You don’t need to! See attendance policy in this syllabus and on Canvas.
Is there a textbook for this course?	Nope! All readings are on Canvas.
Do I have to do all of the readings?	Yes.
Where do I submit this assignment?	Check the table on page 3.
When is this assignment due/where are the instructions?	Check Canvas and WikiEdu
How do I...?	Have you checked the how-to pages on Canvas? If it’s not there, post to #office-hours.
Is there a final exam?	Nope!
Do you post slides?	No. But video lectures are posted to Slack/YouTube
When will our grades be posted?	Typically, within one week of the assignment deadline.
Can you write me a letter of recommendation?	Probably, but check the instructions on my website before you ask: https://adrienneshaw.com/letters-of-recommendation/

COURSE SCHEDULE:

This schedule is subject to change; revisions will be announced on Canvas and Slack. There are optional/reference readings, videos, and podcasts each week but these are just to help clarify content.

Always read the “page” in Canvas for each class day as it includes questions to help guide your reading.
All PDFs for readings that are on Canvas under Files-> That week’s folder.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (1 per class day) about the readings listed below are due on SLACK every class day by NOON. RESPONSES (2 per class day) are due by 11:59pm Friday

Week 1: Introduction and “New” media

8.29 Course Overview and Introduction

- **DUE: Day one Assignment**
- WikiEdu readings: Editing Wikipedia (pages 1–5) and Evaluating Wikipedia

8.31 Studying “New Media”, Technology, and Culture

- Review the talk page and issues with the New Media article on Wikipedia
- Chapters 1 and 2 (skim 2, but focus on terms you are unfamiliar with) from Flew, T. (2014) *New Media* (4th Edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

"Technology is neither good nor bad, nor even neutral. Technology is one part of the complex of relationships that people form with each other and the world around them; it simply cannot be understood outside of that concept."

--Samuel Collins

9.1 DUE 11:59 pm: Slack set up and WikiEdu Week 1 assignment

Week 2: Technology, History, and Rethinking “Effects”

9.5 When Old Technologies Were New

- Introduction and Chapter 2 from Marvin, Carolyn. (1988). *When old technologies were new*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

9.7 Technology and Society

- Williams, Raymond. (2003). “The technology and the society.” In N. Wardrip-Fruin and N. Montfort (Eds.) *The New Media Reader* (P. 289-300). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

9.8 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 2 assignment and Week 2 paragraph

Romantic Deceit via Telegraph: How 'Catfishing' Worked in the 1880s

Using technology to fabricate identities and then pursue relationships is nothing new, as the 134-year-old novel *Wired Love*—about a pair of telegraph operators—can attest.

JESSICA GENTILE | JUL 31, 2013 | CULTURE

Crosswords: the meow meow of the 1920s

Idling workers, distracted housewives and a decline in reading: Alan Connor looks at the great crossword panic of the 1920s

History Retweets: How Ancient Romans Created Social Media

By TOM STANDAGE

Week 3: History, Computers, and the Internet

9.12 Content Gaps and Gender Gaps

- Review Wikipedia articles on History of the Telephone and TV (see Canvas for more details)
- Introduction and Chapter 2, skim chapter 1, from Abbate, Janet. (2012). *Recoding gender: Women's changing participation in computing*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

9.14 Rethinking Internet History

- Curran, James (2012). "Rethinking Internet History" in J. Curran, N. Fenton, and D. Freedman (eds.) *Misunderstanding the Internet*, (pp. 34-60). London: Routledge.

9.15 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 3 assignment and Week 3 paragraph

Week 4: Technology and Infrastructure

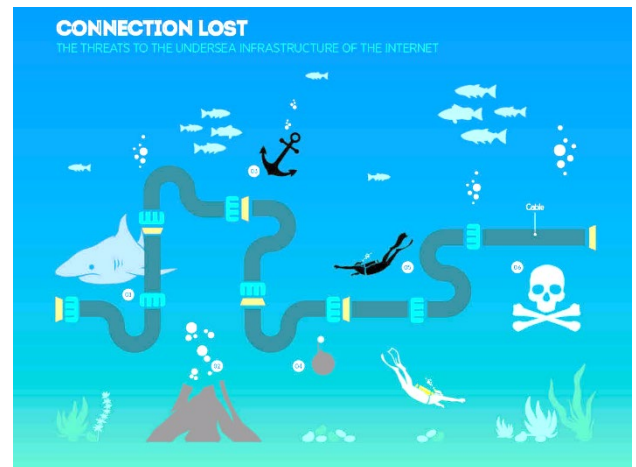
9.19 The Network Under the Sea

- Chapter 6 from Starosielski, Nicole. (2015). *The undersea network*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

9.21 Global Media Infrastructure

- Chapter 3 from Lobato, Ramon. (2019). *Netflix nations: The geography of digital distribution*. New York: NYU Press.

9.22 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 4 assignment and Week 4 paragraph



Graphic from <https://www.theneweconomy.com/insight/the-sharks-that-are-biting-into-googles-cable-systems>

Week 5: Infrastructures of Control and Resistance

9.26 Control and Freedom

- Introduction from Chun, Wendy Hui Kyong. (2006). *Control and freedom: Power and freedom in the age of fiber optics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

9.28 Hacking as Resistance

- Chapter 5 from Galloway, Alexander. (2004). *Protocol: How control exists after decentralization*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

9.29 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 5 assignment and Week 5 paragraph

Comic from <https://xkcd.com/932/>



Week 6: Surveillance and Sousveillance

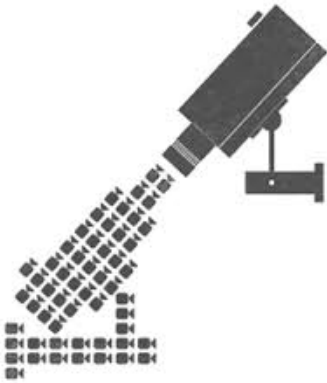
10.3 Surveillance and Privacy

- Humphreys, Lee. (2010). Who's watching whom? A study of interactive technology and surveillance. *Journal of Communication*. 61(4). P. 575-595

10.5 Sousveillance and Cop Watching

- Bock, Mary Angela (2016). Film the police! Cop-Watching and its embodied narratives. *Journal of Communication* 66(1): 13-34.

10.6 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 6 assignment and Week 6 paragraph



Sousveillance and surveillance

Week 7: Studying Cultures Virtually and Virtual Cultures

10.10 Cultures Virtually

- Chapter 4 from Miller, Daniel and Don Slater. (2000). *The Internet: An ethnographic approach*. New York: Berg.

10.12 Virtual Cultures

- Chapter 7 from Boellstorff, Tom. (2008). *Coming of age in Second Life*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

10.13 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 7 assignment and Week 7 paragraph

Week 8: Representation, Identities, and Technology

10.17 Race and Gender Online

- Nakamura, Lisa. (2002). "After/Images of identity: Gender, technology, and identity politics." In M. Flanagan & A. Booth (Eds.) *Reload: Rethinking women and cyberculture* (pp. 121-131). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Skim: P. 130-145 from Chun, W.H.K. (2006). *Control and freedom: Power and freedom in the age of fiber optics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

10.19 Gaming and Intersecting Oppressions

- Gray, Kishonna L. (2011). Intersecting oppressions and online communities: Examining the experiences of women of color in Xbox Live. *Information, Communication & Society* 15(3): 411-428.

10.20 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 8 assignment and Week 8 paragraph ← SEE CANVAS

Screenshot from:
<http://kelldel.wordpress.com/2013/04/22/the-technological-visions-of-utopia-and-dystopia/>



Week 9: Digital Cultural Expressions

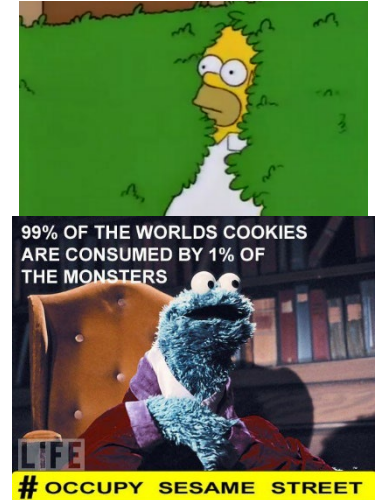
10.24 GIFs as culture

- Miltner, Kate M., and Highfield, Tim. (2017) Never gonna GIF you up: Analyzing the cultural significance of the animated GIF. *Social Media and Society* 3(3): 1-11.

10.26 Memes as politics

- Milner, Ryan M. (2013) Pop polyvocality: Internet memes, public participation, and the Occupy Wall Street movement. *International Journal of Communication*, 7: 2357-2390.

10.27 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 9 assignment and Week 9 paragraph



Week 10: Copyright in the Digital Age

10.31 Freedom of Expression

- McLeod, Kembrew. (2007). Freedom of Expression: Resistance and Repression in the Age of Intellectual Property. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Chapter 6 and Afterward.

11.2 Emotes, GIFs, and Copyright

- Chander, Anupam and Sunder, Madhavi. (2019). Dancing on the Grace of Copyright? Duke Law & Technology Review 18 (Special Symposium Issue): 143-161.

11.3 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 10 assignment and Week 10 paragraph

Week 11: Digital Labor and New Economies

11.7 Immaterial Labor and Digital Games

- Chapter 1 from Dyer-Witheford, Nick and Greig de Peuter. (2009). *Games of empire: Global capitalism and video games*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

11.9 Venture Labor

- Chapter 6 from Neff, Gina. (2012). *Venture labor: Work and the Burden of Risk in Innovative Industries*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

11.10 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 11 assignment and Week 11 paragraph



Game Workers Unite logo

Week 12: Algorithmic Cruelty and Distribution Fetishism

11.14 Algorithmic Cruelty

- Chapter 3 and 4 (introduction and conclusion optional) from Gray, Mary L. and Suri, Siddharth. (2019). *Ghost work: How to stop Silicon Valley from building a new global underclass*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

11.16 Distribution Fetishism

- Chapter 2 and Conclusion from West, Emily. (2022) *Buy Now: How Amazon branded convenience and normalized monopoly*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

11.17 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 12 assignment and Week 12 paragraph

Week 13: FALL BREAK/THANKSGIVING

Week 14: From Trolling to Radicalization?



11.28 Putting Trolling in Context

Phillips, Whitney. (2019). It Wasn't Just the Trolls: Early Internet Culture, "Fun," and the Fires of Exclusionary Laughter. *Social Media + Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2056305119849493> Links to an external site.

Phillips, Whitney. (2020). You're Fake News: The problem with accusations of Falsehood. In M. Zimdars and K. McLeod (eds.) *Fake News: Understanding Media and Misinformation in the Digital Age*. (pp. 55-64). MIT Press.

11.29 What is the role of the Internet in Radicalization?

- Read pages 2-10, 28-33 and 44-52, skim rest: Marwick, Alice, Clancy, Benjamin, and Furl, Katherine. *Far-Right Online*

Radicalization: A review of the literature. Center for Information Technology, and Public Life report.

11.30 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 13 assignment and Week 13 paragraph

Week 15: Revisiting and concluding

12.5 Wikipedia in class?

- Adams, Julia, Brückner, Hannah, and Naslund, Cambria. (2019). Who counts as a notable sociologist on Wikipedia? Gender, race, and the "professor test". *Socius* 5: 1-14.
- Jemielniak, Dariusz, and Aibar, Eduard. (2016). Bridging the gap between Wikipedia and Academia. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology* 67(7): 1773–1776.

12.7 Conclusions

- TBD See Canvas

12.8 DUE 11:59 pm: WikiEdu Week 15 assignment and Week 15 paragraph

12.15 DUE 11:59 pm: Final Reflection paper and Final final Wikipedia contribution