

Spring 2018

UNT
EST. 1890



ANTH 4701.036

SURVEYING THE SELF(IE)

This seminar takes an anthropological approach to exploring the way in which we navigate our social lives in a virtual world. The innovation of social media sites brought with them the freedom of unbounded sociality, where with a single click you can have thousands or even millions of "friends". Yet, it is worth considering whether this new virtual society is less an expanse of sociality and more a social prison in which we discipline ourselves to the constant self-examination over how to display and manage our online profiles. Together as a class we will create a persona and delve into platforms like Facebook and Farmersonly.com among others in order to explore how we manage our friendships, sexuality, politics, morality, and ultimately our SELVES in the virtual world.

Monday & Wednesday
2:00-3:20pm
Lang 315

Assessments

Summary Papers 10%

200-300 word summaries of theory readings

Assigned at the beginning of each theoretical section. Approx. 10 papers.

Application Papers 20%

400-500 word essays that conceptualize Foucauldian thought onto social media applications

Assigned at the end of each theoretical section. Approx. 10 papers.

Midterm Examination 30%

500-700 word take-home essay regarding the Foucauldian concept of "Discipline"
DUE: March 19, 2018

Final Examination 40%

1000-1500 word take-home cumulative essay
DUE: May 7, 2018

PROFESSOR M. NELSON

melissa.nelson@unt.edu
Dept. of Anthropology
Chilton Hall, Rm. 330E
PH: 940-369-7913 (Office)

Office Hours

By Appointment

Seminar Schedule

ANTH 4701.036 Surveying the Self(ie)

	M	W	Topics & Central Readings	
January	--	17	Conceptual Introduction Black Mirror: Season 3, Episode 1 "NoseDive"	
	22	24	Theoretical Introduction Gutting Ch1: Lives & Works Gutting Ch8: Crime & Punishment	
	29	31	Microphysics of Power D&P: 135-141	
February	5	7	<i>Breaking down Facebook</i>	
	12	14	Instrumental Coding of the Body D&P: 149-169 <i>Facebook/Social Media Etiquette</i>	
	19	21		
	26	28	Cellular Power D&P: 141-148 <i>Your Place in the world of Facebook: Sociality/Relationships</i>	
March	5	7		
	19	21	Introduction to Punishment D&P: 170-177 Rayner: Life in a Virtual Panopticon	
	26	28	Normalization D&P: 177-184	
April	2	4	Invention of Reality D&P: 185-194	
	9	11	Panopticism D&P: 195-228 Rayner: The Call of the Crowd	Performance Orenstein Goffman Rayner: I tweet therefore...
	16	18	Social Capital Bourdieu	Revisiting Power Lieb
	23	25	Prison D&P: 231-256	
	30	2		
May	7	--	Final Examination Essay Due 1:30-3:30pm	

Discipline

Punish



Anth 4701.036

Surveying the Self(ie)

Updated Reading & Assignment Guide

Monday 4/9

***In class Application #6 Presentations**

Reading: Panopticism

- D&P 195-228
 - Rayner: The Call of the Crowd
-

Wednesday 4/11

***Summary #7 Due**

Reading: Panopticism

- D&P 195-228
 - Rayner: The Call of the Crowd
-

Monday 4/16

***Application #7 Due**

Reading: Performance

- Orenstein
 - Goffman
 - Rayner: I tweet therefore...
-

Wednesday 4/18

***Summary #8 Due**

Reading: Performance

- Orenstein
 - Goffman
 - Rayner: I tweet therefore...
-

Monday 4/23

***Application #8 Due**

Reading: Social Capital

- Bourdieu
-

Wednesday 4/25

***Summary #9 Due**

Reading: Social Capital

- Bourdieu
-

Monday 4/30

***Application #9 Due**

Reading: Prison & Revisiting Power

- D&P: 231-256
 - Lieb
-

Wednesday 5/2

***Summary #10 Due**

Reading: Prison & Revisiting Power

- D&P: 231-256
 - Lieb
-

Friday 5/3

***Application #10 Due**

Final Exam: May 7th.

Blackboard submission between 1:30 and 3:30pm.

Assignment Descriptions

Summary & Application #6

Invention of Reality: D&P: 185-194

Summary & Application #7

Panopticism

- D&P 195-228
- Rayner: The Call of the Crowd

Summary & Application #8

Performance

- Orenstein
- Goffman
- Rayner: I tweet therefore...

Summary & Application #9

Social Capital

- Bourdieu

Summary #10

Prison & Revisiting Power

- D&P: 231-256
- Lieb

Application #10

Final Exam Abstract

Extra Credit

20 min. office hour appointments to review final exam abstracts will be offered on May 3rd and May 4th.

Sign-ups will be on blackboard starting that week. If you attend one of these appointments you will receive +2 pts. added to your final grade calculation and the option to drop your lowest application grade.

Submission Guidelines:

All work must be turned in while in class attendance. NO WORK SHALL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH EMAIL unless otherwise stated. NO LATE WORK SHALL BE ACCEPTED unless due to a documented excused absence or prior approved extension.

Word Counts

Summary: 200-300 words

Application: 400-500 words