

Syllabus: Social Media Literacies

College/University Level

Seed Version Compiled By: Howard Rheingold
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Note on using this syllabus:

As an instructor of undergraduate and graduate students at [University of California, Berkeley](#), and [Stanford University](#), I created this syllabus for the benefit of other college/university level instructors. I am beginning to develop a [high school version](#). (If you are a high school teacher, and want to work on making the syllabus more suitable for high school students, contact Howard Rheingold). Please feel free to use, modify, and share this syllabus. Reorder the modules, add or subtract required or recommended texts and learning activities. Use your own assessment methods. If you wish to help improve this seed document, contact howard@rheingold.com and I will add you as a commenter.

This syllabus is based on my 2012 book, [Net Smart: How to Thrive Online](#), as a textbook. I wrote the book as an educational instrument aimed at the broader population as well as students. As I explain in the introductory chapter, (which is [downloadable free of charge](#)), I have concluded, after thirty years as an online participant, observer, learner and teacher, that social media literacies are a critical uncertainty in addressing the question of whether digital media improve or erode human individual capacities and collective culture. Literate populations are becoming the driving force that shape new media, just as they were the eras following the invention of the alphabet and printing press. What broad populations know now, and the ways they put that knowledge into action, will shape the ways people use and misuse social media for decades to come.

I use “literacy” in the sense of a skill that includes not only the individual ability to decode and encode in a medium, but also the social ability to use the medium effectively in concert with others. I didn’t write the book as a syllabus, but as a logical ordering of the five social media literacies of *attention*, *crap detection*, *participation*, *collaboration*, and *network awareness*: *attention* is the starting place for all media use; *crap detection* is necessary for effective participation; knowledge of individual *participation* is by its nature enmeshed with collaborative communications that take place through *networked publics*.

When composing the syllabus, I duplicated much of this progression, but also chose texts that can offer analytic tools, explanatory frameworks, and competing perspectives -- the basic building blocks for teachers and learners to use. For example, Cliff Stoll and Cathy

Davidson provide alternative views on questions about multitasking, furnishing solid starting places for critical inquiry and debate about the way people succeed and fail at media multitasking. Similarly, in the “Remix Culture” module, arguments for and against strong copyright protection provide a jumping-off point for debates about socio-technical issues that confront ordinary people in the course of our lives.

Course Description:

Today’s personal, social, political, economic worlds are all affected by digital media and networked publics. Viral videos, uprisings from Tahrir to #OWS, free search engines, abundant inaccuracy and sophisticated disinformation online, indelible and searchable digital footprints, laptops in lecture halls and smartphones at the dinner table, twenty-something social media billionaires, massive online university courses -- it’s hard to find an aspect of daily life around the world that is *not* being transformed by the tweets, blogs, wikis, apps, movements, memes, likes and plusses, tags, text messages, and comments two billion Internet users and six billion mobile phone users emit. New individual and collaborative skills are emerging. This course introduces students to both the literature about and direct experience of these new literacies: research foundations and practical methods to control attention, attitudes and tools necessary for critical consumption of information, best practices of individual digital participation and collective participatory culture, the use of collaborative media and methodologies, and the application of network know-how to life online.

Learning Outcomes:

Diligent students will:

- Cultivate an ability to discern, analyze, and manage the way they deploy their attention.
- Learn to use social media tools for collaborative work.
- Understand the need for critical consumption of information.
- Understand and practice appropriate online behavior.
- Hone their ability to find the answer to any question with the right kind of search.
- Train their thinking to assess the accuracy of the answers they find online.
- Learn the modes, consequences, some of the responsibilities and dangers of different kinds of digital participation, from curation to blogging.

- Distinguish the characteristics and methods, advantages and pitfalls, of virtual communities, smart mobs, collective intelligence, crowdsourcing, social production, collaborative consumption and wiki collaboration.
- Recognize the ways the structure and dynamics of networks affect the behaviors of populations, the elements of applying of social network analysis to online culture, the dynamics of social capital online, the steps necessary to cultivate personal learning networks.
- Become familiar with competing perspectives on social media practices and their effects; learn how to make analytic arguments regarding key debates around the use of social media.

Ongoing Assignments

Select a mix of these as continuous activities. College students have been strongly socialized to do the homework for each class the night before it is due -- a method that doesn't work when discourse, not a discrete product like a term paper, is the goal. The necessity for more frequent informal discourse through forums, blogs, comments, usually needs to be repeated and reinforced.

Online forums:

Students are expected to contribute at least one substantial post to the forum each week - and more than one post per week is encouraged. Good forum conversation is a communication art on its own. Be sure you [know how to use the forum software](#), understand these [guidelines to discussion board participation](#), and [understand how forum posts will be evaluated](#). Reading each week's texts precedes and is necessary for forum discussions, since the common theme of the online discussions will be the previous week's readings and in-class discussions. For examples of "substantial" comment threads, try [this one about online identity](#) or (perhaps ironically) [this long thread commenting on Nicholas Carr's article](#), "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" or [this thread](#) about "the dark side of digital backchannels." [This](#) is a good example of a comment that disagrees with the author of the original post but respectfully adds a valid point that the original post did not consider.

Lexicon teams:

Each week, a team of students will edit a wiki to collaboratively identify and define key words and phrases from that week's readings and class discussion. During the next class session, led by the lexicon team, the entire class will discuss, and if necessary, improve the definitions. Students will create an ongoing

record of lexicon work on the course wiki. In addition, each week's lexicon team will add words to [a Wordnik](#) list that is set up at the beginning of the term.

Key questions about readings:

At the beginning of each class meeting, each student will turn in a legibly signed 3 X 5 or 5 X 8 card with one substantial question that the student is prepared to address for each reading in the syllabus; Students are required to post their questions for each reading each week on their personal wiki notebook before the class meeting in which those questions are discussed.

Blog reflections on readings.

Each week, by 9 AM on the day of the class meeting, each student is required to post a short (a few sentences or a short paragraph) synopsis of each reading in the student's blog. Rather than a direct summary, students are requested to create a short dialog between the authors of each week's texts, list ways in which the subject of the texts could affect the student's life or society, and/or reflect on the implications of the texts for life online in the future, answer their own key questions from their own perspective, and/or that of the authors of the week's texts..

Mindmapping teams:

For each of the readings assigned for each week, a team of two students will present a mindmap toward the end of each class meeting, showing the most important top level, second level, and third level concepts and/or practices from that week's readings. See [this introduction to mindmapping](#) to understand how it can be done.

This suggested exercise can be useful: Each member of the mindmapping team should write down (independently) on Post-it notes as many important points to remember about the readings that they can come up with in a few minutes. One idea, concept, issue, fact, per note. Put all the notes up on a wall, then try to cluster those that seem related. Then ask why they seem related. For clusters, see if you can come up for a descriptive name for the cluster in one or a few words. The descriptive name for the cluster becomes a top-level node in the mindmap and the notes in the cluster can orbit around it. If there is a strong hierarchical structure to the collection of notes, look at how to branch and sub-branch a tree -- what is the top level, the second level, the third level of the hierarchy? Most topics are not naturally strongly hierarchical, but are a mix of network-like lateral connections and hierarchical nodes that have subnodes that have subnodes. This exercise is meant to generate a sketch. The next step is to refine it.

Mindmaps can be hand-drawn and scanned, then projected, or constructed online with one of [many available mindmapping applications](#) and embedded then projected -- or they can be drawn on the whiteboard. The goal is to engage the entire class in trying to sketch a systemic map of each week's subject matter. For example, these are mindmaps that student teams did of the entire set of readings for each class session of a Stanford course (<http://socialmediaclassroom.com/host/vircom>): <http://howardrheingoldsteachingnotes.posterous.com/student-mindmaps-from-social-mediavirtual-com>

Real-time note-taking teams

During class sessions, teams of four take notes using a real-time note-taking service such as [Hackpad](#), [Etherpad](#) or [PrimaryPad](#), handing off to another team every half hour, publishing their notes to the class wiki after the end of the class session.

Real-time Backchannel

During certain sessions, students will use [Hotseat](#) to engage in parallel, relevant online discussion in real time through the web, Facebook, Twitter, or Facebook.

E-book teams:

Each week, a team of four students works between meetings of class sessions to update an enhanced e-book that includes the Etherpad notes, lexicon entries, and mindmaps for that week, with graphics, text, and live links. In addition, e-book teams develop a wiki page on best practices and procedures.

Collaborative projects:

Using any combination of collaborative tools (social bookmarking, forums, blogs and comments, wikis, mindmapping or concept mapping), propose and agree upon a project that can be accomplished by 4 person project teams within the term of the course, to be presented on or after the last class meeting. Collaboration teams should agree upon and post a detailed outline of their project, an abstract that includes the problem they are trying to solve or issue they are trying to probe, a division of labor, a log of the conversation and decision-making that went into constructing and executing the project, and a final presentation. Each team should design its own assessment rubric by editing a wiki page to show all the features of an excellent project. 1. Find at least ten great examples of (a forum post, comment thread, use of Twitter, online collaboration or other examples of social objects that exhibit excellence); 2. Co-create list of the five most important features of the social object; 3. Define what qualifies as a 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 on a scale from 1-5 for each feature on a Google Spreadsheet.

Use your imagination, think big, and most of all, work on projects you find meaningful in relation to your own lives online - do not attempt methodologically complete research. Think of your projects as "probes." Ask a good question. See what you can find, make meaning of, and teach to others about your question. When making a presentation, you can use any interactive multimedia presentation medium OTHER than PowerPoint. Here is a list of [interactive multimedia presentation resources](#) and here is [a list of mindmapping tools that can also be used for this purpose](#). Keep in mind that this is a collaboration in which you not only divide labor but help each other learn -- specify which team member is responsible for each part of the project, make clear how the parts fit together, and make a positive effort to make connections between the parts. An ideal collaboration is more than the sum of individual contributions. You need, therefore, to make your collaborative dialogue explicit. Use the comment thread attached to your project wiki page to explicitly make connections between parts and make clear how they fit together.

Expectations

- Readings are substantial; students are expected to come to class prepared to answer questions about all of the week's assigned readings and to record their questions in their private wiki notebook. Students are expected to reflect on each reading in their blog prior to each class meeting.
- Students are expected to devote a minimum of five hours each week to the readings and assignments from this course.
- Active participation is required in discussions during class meetings and in the online forum between class meetings.
- Bibliographies, footnotes, and/or lists of sources are required when quoting or referring to another's work in assigned papers. [Son of Citation Machine can help](#): use MLA style.

Schedule/Texts

Texts:

Howard Rheingold, *Net Smart: How to Thrive Online*, MIT Press, 2012.

Before Session One

- Howard Rheingold, *Net Smart*, Introduction: “Why you need digital know-how -- why we all need it.” pp i-ix. (textbook)
- [Welcome from the instructor](#): How a collaborative, cooperative, learning community works -- and the kind of active learning it requires.

Session One: Attention, Multitasking, Mindfulness, Metacognition

Required:

- Howard Rheingold, *Net Smart*, Chapter One: “Attention! Why and how to control your mind’s most powerful instrument,” pp 35-70.
- Clifford Nass, Eyal Ophir, and Anthony D. Wagner, “[Cognitive Control in Media Multitaskers](#),” in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 106, no. 37, (April 2, 2009), 15583–15587.
- Cathy Davidson, “[The Myth of Monotasking](#),” HASTAC, November 26, 2001. Podcast
- Linda Stone, “[Just Breathe: Building the Case for Email Apnea](#),” *Huffington Post*, February 8, 2008. Blog post.
- Maggie Jackson, “[Attention Class](#),” *Boston.com*, June 29, 2008.

Recommended:

- [How to meditate at any time without meditating](#). Blog post.
- [How to meditate in a moment](#). Video

Session One Metacognition/Mindfulness Learning Activities

- [One-word daily focus mindmap](#) graphic depiction of a daily practice.
- Daily online mindfulness practice: Put a sticker, card, post-it on your desk and laptop. Whenever it catches your attention, note what you were just paying attention to. Were you breathing normally or holding your breath? At the end of a week, reflect on your blog about this practice.
- For one minute, at least once during the week, do [this short meditation on the breath](#). At least one other time during the week, do the [100 breaths meditation](#).

Session Two: Infotention

Required:

- Rheingold, *Net Smart*, Chapter Two: “Infotention: Attention to Information,” pp 96-111.
- Howard Rheingold, “[Mindful Infotention.](#)” Blog post.
- Howard Rheingold, “[Infotention Concept Map.](#)” Concept map.
- Jennifer A. Livingstone, “[Metacognition, an overview.](#)” text.
- John Robb, “[Is Scanning and Situational Awareness a Cure for Multitasking Drift?](#)” Blog post.
- Ann Blair, “Reading Strategies for Coping With Information Overload ca.1550-1700,” *Journal of the History of Ideas*, Volume 64, Number 1, January 2003, http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_the_history_of_ideas/v064/64.1blair.pdf (PDF). Volume 64, Number 1, January 2003.

Session Two Infotention Learning Activities

- Create an information dashboard using [Netvibes](#), seek sources and populate your dashboard with feeds. Post a screen-capture of your dashboard in your blog and briefly explain your attentional-informational strategy. (Here is a [Netvibes tutorial on a website](#))

- Create a twitter list on a topic, finding expert sources, then turn it into a paper.li ([How to create Twitter lists](#)) ([How to create a paper.li](#)) and display a screen capture in your blog, with an explanation of how you found and selected experts.
- Reflect on this process, and how you coordinate your attentional strategies and information tools. One blog post on this reflection required, although co-learners are encouraged to blog as often as they desire.
- Participate in the forum discussion about what it all means. At least one cogent forum post that helps create a culture of conversation.

Session Three: Crap Detection

Required:

- Rheingold, *Net Smart*, Chapter Two: “Crap Detection 101: how to find what you need to know, and how to decide if it’s true,” pp 77-96.
- Neil Postman, “[Bullshit and the Art of Crap Detection](#)” text
- Scott Rosenberg, “In the Context of Web Context: How to Check Out Any Web Page,” *Wordyard Blog*, September 14, 2010, <http://www.wordyard.com/2010/09/14/in-the-context-of-web-context-how-to-check-out-any-web-page> .
- Bing and the Microsoft Education Team, “[From Search to Research: Developing Critical Thinking through Web Research Skills](#)” PDF, pp 3-14, 31-37.
- Tasha Bergson-Michelson, “[Building Good Search Skills: What Students Need to Know](#),” *PBS Mediashift*, March 20, 2012.

Recommended:

- Cass Sunstein, “[The Daily We: Is the Internet Really a Blessing for Democracy?](#)” *Boston Review*, Summer, 2001.
- Eli Pariser, “[Beware Online Filter Bubbles](#),” TED video, May, 2011.
- [Basic Search Engine Lesson Plans](#) (Google).

- “[Internet Detective](#),” *The Intute Virtual Learning Suite*, (Compendium of references).

Session Three Crap Detection Learning Activities

- Select a current issue or topic that is in the news and which also has the potential for evidence-based sources (e.g., scientific claims, factual claims that can be supported or cast into doubt by the use of research or polling). Select web sources that you would consider to be very good, only partially trustworthy, and probably untrustworthy. Write a blog post describing the process you used and the evidence for your evaluation.
- Identify two websites that are either cloaked, astroturf, misinformational, a hoax, or otherwise misinformational. Use sites that are not already listed [here](#).
- View the videos and answer the questions posed on [Source Check](#). Reflect on the process in your blog.
- Map your “information horizon” by listing all the sources, including people, tools, and texts, you would go to in order to find answers to different kinds of questions. For example, you are diagnosed with a serious disease, you want to start a business, you want to write a literature review of the scientific and/or scholarly publications about a particular area. Example categories for an information horizon map would be friends, social networks, colleagues, subject matter experts (how do you find them?), books, web pages, research publications, search engine queries, reference librarians, bibliographies, databases, direct observation and experiment, reflection. How do you seek, evaluate, consult these resources? How does the process change as it continues? Try to make a visual representation, a sketch combining features of flow charts and mind maps to illustrate how your process of inquiry proceeds.

Session Four: The Power Law of Participation

Required

- Howard Rheingold, *Net Smart*, Chapter Three: “Participation Power,” pp 111-147.

- Lee Rainie, “[Networked Creators: How Users of Social Media Have Changed the Ecology of Information](#)” (paper presented at VALA Libraries 2010 Conference, Melbourne, February 11, 2010).
- Tim O’Reilly, “[The Architecture of Participation](#),” *O’Reilly About*, March, June 2004. Blog post.
- Henry Jenkins, Ravi Puroshotma, Katherine Clinton, Margaret Weigel, and Alice J. Robison, “[Confronting the Challenges of Participatory Culture: Media Education for the 21st Century](#)” 2005. PDF
- Mirko Schaeffer, *Bastard Culture: How User Participation Transforms Cultural Production*, [http://mtschaefer.net/medipp 1-23.a/uploads/docs/Schaefer_Bastard-Culture_2011.pdf](http://mtschaefer.net/medipp%201-23.a/uploads/docs/Schaefer_Bastard-Culture_2011.pdf) (PDF), pp 1-31.

Recommended

- Pew Internet Project, “[The Tone of Life on Social Networking Sites](#),” February 9, 2012.

Session Four Participation Learning Activities

- Keep a social media diary of one typical weekday & evening and one typical weekend day and evening, hour by hour. Note, whenever possible the intent of messages, the intended audience, when recording your own entries. Write a blog post of at least 500 words: characterize the kind of social media participation that you take part in or witness. Argue for or against the assertion that these activities are evidence of a “participatory” culture. Furnish examples to support your characterization.

Session Five: Curation

- Robert Scoble, “[Seven Needs of Real-time Curators](#),” Scobleizer.com, March 27, 2010, Blog post.

- Robin Good, “[Real-time News Curation, Newsmastering, and Newsradars: The Complete Guide, Parts 1–6](#),” MasterNewMedia.com, September 7, 2010, Blog posts.
- Howard Rheingold, [Robin Good on Curation](#) (video)
- Howard Rheingold, [Robert Scoble on Online Curation](#) (video)
- [Henry Lowood on Curation](#) (video)

Session Five Curation Learning Activities

- Use the [social bookmarking tab](#) here in the Social Media Classroom to find, tag, and select descriptive snippets for 2-3 resources related to this course.
- Create a [Diigo](#) account, find and tag a dozen sites related to the theory and/or practice of curation. Highlight the key passages in one of the texts and post a link to the highlighted text under Social Bookmarks in the Social Media Classroom.
- Create a [Scoop.it](#) account and curate a specific topic related to one of the main literacies in this course (attention, crap detection, participation, collaboration, network know how.) For example, here are [Howard's infotention links](#), [Scoop.it style](#). Be highly selective and make your criteria for selection clear; define your criteria succinctly: If you could only recommend 20 resources for someone who seeks to understand one of these subjects, which resources would you recommend, and why do you think they are authoritative?

Session Six: Collective Intelligence and Crowdsourcing

Required

- Howard Rheingold, *Net Smart*, Chapter Four: “Social-digital know-how: The arts and sciences of Collective Action,” pp 147-167.
- Jeffrey R. Young, “[Crowd Science Reaches New Heights](#),” *Chronicle of Higher Education* 6, no. 37, June 4, 2010:A14. Text.

- Anita Williams Wooley, Christopher F. Chabris, Alexander Pentland, Nada Hashmi, and Thomas W. Malone, “[Evidence for a Collective Intelligence Factor in the Performance of Human Groups](#),” *Science*, September 30, 2010. Text.
- Tiziana Terranova, “Free Labor: Producing Culture for the Digital Economy,” June 20, 2003, <http://www.electronicbookreview.com/thread/technocapitalism/voluntary>

Recommended

- Clay Shirky, “[A Speculative Post on the Idea of Algorithmic Authority](#),” *Clay Shirky’s blog*, November 15, 2009. Blog post.

Session Six: Collective Intelligence and Crowdsourcing learning activities

- Find a Wikipedia entry with a rich history of interaction and dispute on the Talk page -- substantial discussion of significant issues (attribution, significance, sourcing, etc.) rather than simply extensive discussion. Describe the process by which Wikipedians argued over the entry, the reasons for disputes, what methods they used to resolve conflicts, and describe the outcome (so far). Read about [Wikipedia Sociology](#). Why do you think the group of Wikipedians who edited and talked about the Wikipedia page you selected reached a resolution of their dispute ?
- Write a blog post of at least 400 words about an example of collective intelligence and/or crowdsourcing you find online. What was the objective, was it accomplished, why would you call it example of collective intelligence and/or crowdsourcing, what social or technological affordances contributed to its success, would you consider the outcome beneficial or destructive? Or attempt to do the very opposite -- find an example of unintelligent or counterproductive groupthink online; answer the same questions.
- Propose potential uses for [citizen science techniques](#).

Session Seven: Virtual Community and Social Production

- Howard Rheingold, *Net Smart*, Chapter Four: “Social-digital know-how: The arts and sciences of Collective Action,” pp 168-190.
- Yochai Benkler, “[Coase’s Penguin, or Linux and the Nature of the Firm](#),” *Yale Law Journal* (November 2002): 369. PDF.
- Howard Rheingold, “[The Art of Hosting Good Conversations Online](#),” 1998. Web page.
- Edward J. Gallagher, “[Shaping a culture of conversation: the discussion board and beyond](#),” January 7, 2009. Web page.
- Kreiss, Daniel, Megan Finn, and Fred Turner. “[The Limits of Peer Production: Some Reminders From Max Weber for the Network Society](#).” *New Media & Society*, 13(2): 243-259, 2011.
<http://danielkreiss.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/new-media-society-2010-kreiss-1461444810370951.pdf>

Session Seven: Virtual community and Social Production learning activities

- Observe a network or virtual community and infer the norms. Wide latitude is allowed in defining “community,” given that you explicitly argue why your choice fulfills a majority of Wellman’s criteria for community (“networks of interpersonal ties that provide sociability, support, information, a sense of belonging, and social identity.” Wellman, Barry. 1979. "The Community Question." *American Journal of Sociology* 84: 1201-31.) Create a document outlining how to participate.
- Reflect in your blog on the growth, struggles, benefits, advantages and disadvantages of working together online as a virtual learning community to this point.

Session Eight: Understanding Networks

Required:

- Howard Rheingold, *Net Smart*, Chapter Five: “Social has a shape: Why networks matter,” pp 191-214.
- Howard Rheingold, “[Network Literacy](#),” Part One. Video.
- Howard Rheingold, “[Network Literacy](#),” Part Two. Video.
- Chris Anderson, “[The Long Tail](#),” *Wired*, October 2004. Blog post.
- James H. Fowler and Nicholas Christakis, “[Dynamic Spread of Happiness in a Large Social Network: Longitudinal Analysis over 20 Years in the Framingham Heart Study](#),” *British Medical Journal* 337, no. a2338 (2008): 1–9. Text.
- Manuel Castells, “[Why Networks Matter](#),” [Network Logic: Who Governs in an Interconnected World?](#), Helen McCarthy, Paul Miller, Paul Skidmore, eds, London: Demos, 2004, pp 221-224; [available online](#)
- John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt, “[The Advent of Netwar \(Revisited\)](#),” in *Networks and Netwars: The Future of Terror, Crime, and Militancy*, RAND corporation, 2001, (PDF).

Recommended:

- Smith, Marc “[Social Network Analysis: Measuring, Mapping, and Modeling Collections of Connections](#),” (PDF)
- Marin, Alexandra, and Barry Wellman, “[Social Network Analysis: An Introduction](#),” *Handbook of Social Network Analysis*, Petter Carrington and John Scott, Eds, London: Sage, 2010. (PDF)
- Travers, J. and Milgram, S. (1969). [An Experimental Study of the Small World Problem](#). *Sociometry*, 32(4), 425-43.
- Watts, D. and Strogatz, S.H. (1998). [Collective dynamics of 'small-world' networks](#). *Nature*, 393(6684), 440-2.
- Burt, R. (1976) [Positions in Networks](#). *Social Forces*, 55(1), 93-122.
- Granovetter, M. (1973) [The Strength of Weak Ties](#). *American Journal of Sociology*, 78(6), 1360-1380.

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Session Eight Understanding Networks learning activities

[The Oracle of Bacon](#)

Session Nine: Smart Mobs

Required:

- Zynep Tufekci, [The #freemona Perfect Storm: Dissent and the Networked Public Sphere](#), November 25, 2011. Blog post
- Burce Etling, Rob Faris, Jon Palfrey, “[Political Change in the Digital Age: The Fragility and Promise of Online Organizing](#)” Berkman Center for Internet and Society, December 9, 2010. Online publication.
- Howard Rheingold, [Introduction to Cooperation Theory](#), May 17, 2011. Video.
- Howard Rheingold, “[Mobile Media and Collective Action](#),” In J.E. Katz (ed): *Handbook of mobile communication studies*. Cambridge: The MIT Press. 2008 PDF.

Recommended:

- [How Facebook Changed The World](#) - The Arab Spring (part 1 of 4). Video
- [How Facebook Changed The World](#) - The Arab Spring (part 2 of 4) Video
- [How Facebook Changed The World](#) - The Arab Spring (part 3 of 4) Video
- [How Facebook Changed The World](#) - The Arab Spring (part 4 of 4) Video

Session Nine Smart Mobs learning activities

[The Oracle of Bacon](#)

Session Ten: Social Networks, Social Capital, Personal Learning Networks

Required

- Howard Rheingold, *Net Smart*, Chapter Five: “Social has a shape: Why networks matter,” pp 215-230.
- Shelley Terrell, “[Global Netweaver, Curator, PLN Builder](#),” *dmlcentral weblog*, October 15, 2010. Blog post with video interview.
- Nicole B. Ellison, Charles Steinfield, and Cliff Lampe, “The Benefits of Facebook ‘Friends’: Social Capital and College Students’ Use of Online Social Network Sites,” *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* 12(4) (August 2007): 1143. Reader
- Gabriele Plickert, Barry Wellman, and Rochelle Côté, “[It’s Not Who You Know, It’s How You Know Them: Who Exchanges What with Whom](#),” PDF.
- Vicente Navarro, “A Critique of Social Capital,” *International Journal of Health Services*, Volume 32, Number 3, Pages 423–432, 2000, <http://www.vnavarro.org/wp-content/uploads/2002/12/a-critique-of-social-capital.pdf> (PDF)

Recommended:

- Kamakshi Rajagopal et al, “[Understanding Personal Learning Networks: Their Structure, Content, and the Networking Skills Needed to Optimally Use Them](#),” *First Monday*, Vol 17 No 1, January 2, 2012 - Web article

Session Ten: Social Networks, Social Capital, Personal Learning Networks learning activities

- Write a blog post of at least 400 words describing the steps you’ve taken and/or plan to take to cultivate and harvest knowledge capital and/or social capital from your personal learning network. Make deadlines for yourself in your plans.

- Add an example to the forum discussion about examples of social capital online.
- Reflect on whether or not -- and how -- your activities with other learners have created or made use of social capital. How much do you think you have, and why? What evidence/criteria can you offer?

Session Eleven: Remix, Participatory Culture, and Ethics of Digital Use

Required

- Kirby Ferguson, [Everything is a Remix](#), 4-part video series.
- Aram Sinnreich, “[Mashed Up: Music, Technology, and the Rise of Configurable Culture](#),” Truthdig, August 27, 2010. Book Excerpt online
- Maria Popova, “[How Language Enabled Innovation and Evolution](#),” DailyGood, March 11, 2012. Short blog post
- Andrew Keen, “[Web 2.0 Is Reminiscent of Marx](#),” CBS News, September 22, 2009. Short blog post.

Recommended:

- Brett Gaylor, 2008, “[RiP! A Remix Manifesto](#), National Film Board of Canada,” 2008. 86 minute video (mature subject matter; viewer discretion advised).
- Jonathan McIntosh, “[A history of subversive remix video before YouTube: Thirty political video mashups made between World War II and 2005](#),” In “Fan/Remix Video,” edited by Francesca Coppa and Julie Levin Russo, special issue, *Transformative Works and Cultures*,” no 9.
- John Oswald, “[Plunderphonics, or Audio Piracy as a Compositional Prerogative](#),” presented to the *Wired Society Electro-Acoustic Conference*, Toronto, 1985. Short text.

- Jack M. Balkin, “Digital Speech and Democratic Culture: A Theory of Freedom of Expression for the Information Society,” *New York University Law Review* Vol 79:1. Long text
- Maria Popova, “[Steal Like an Artist: Austin Kleon Speaks on Combinatorial Creativity](#),” *The Atlantic*, September 28, 2011, brief blog post and seven minute video.
- Rick Falkvinge, “History of Copyright Part 1 -- Black Death,” *Falkvinge & Co. on Infopolicy*, April 11, 2012, brief blog post, the first in a seven part series.
- Nate Harrison, “[Video explains the world’s most important 6-sec drum loop](#),” 18 minute video.
- Panel, “[Folk Cultures and Digital Cultures](#),” MIT, 1 hour 49 minute video

Session Eleven Learning Activities: Remix, Participatory Culture, and Ethics of Digital Use

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