

# Technology and Culture - 14403 - CTCH 303 -001

**Lecture:** Tues/ Thurs 10am -11:15am in RC 040

**Professor:** Dr Charity Marsh

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**Office Hours:** Tues/ Thurs 11:15am -11:45am

## Course Description:

The aim of this course is to understand technology as a social practice. It will focus on issues concerning the intersections between technology and social life from a multidisciplinary perspective. Topics include: the nature of technology; history of technology; theories of technology; technological determinism and fetishism; technology and bodies; gender and media; digital and interactive media; technology and representation.

**Texts:** Readings will be posted to UR courses. You are responsible for printing all readings and bringing the readings to classes for discussion.

## Evaluation:

### Assignment

Assignment	Value	Length/Type	Due
Gendering Technology Assignment	10%	Written (2-3pgs)	Jan. 23 (10am)
Digital Storytelling Assignments	10%	On-Line Post	Feb. 6 (10am)
Playing with Form Assignment	10%	Open	March 12 (10am)
Strategies of Resistance Assignment	10%	Open	April 2 (10am)
Mid-Term Exam	30%	Written In-Class	Feb. 11 & 13
Final Exam (Take Home)	30%	Take Home	Apr. 17 (10am)

## Notes:

All assignments and exams must be submitted to complete the course. If an assignment is missed the grade of "NP" will be given.

All assignments and exams will be discussed in lectures.

Attendance at the lectures is mandatory.

This course uses Turnitin.

## Weekly Schedule and Readings

Jan 7/9  
Readings: **technological anxieties: “pictures came and broke your heart”**  
Marx & Engels, Foucault (1988)

Jan 14/16  
Readings: **technological determinism: “tv made me do it”**  
McLuhan, Hall

Jan 21/23  
Readings: **gendering technologies: “resistance is futile”**  
Haraway, Rodgers

## Gendering Technology Assignment Due on Jan. 23rd

Jan 28/30  
Readings: **playful strategies: “i tried to organize freedom/ how Scandinavian of me”**  
Marsh (2009), Bjork [www.bjork.com](http://www.bjork.com); Biophilia research

Feb 4/6  
Readings: **Digital Storytelling and Identity: “should I be outside of it? Or something in between?”**  
<https://www.untied.shoes>  
Guest: Evie Ruddy (digital storyteller, videographer, video editor, photographer)

## Digital Storytelling Assignment Due on Feb. 6th

Feb 11/ 13  
Mid Term Exam Part 1 & 2  
**There are two parts to the exam.**  
**You must complete both parts during the class times on Tuesday and Thursday!**

Feb 18/20  
Reading Week

Feb 25/27  
Readings: **power, technology, culture: “understand us before you end us”**  
Foucault (1980), Marsh (2006)

Mar 3/5                    **technology levels the playing field, sort of: “i got a body kinda naughty”**  
Readings:                Dyer, TBA

Mar 10/12                **playing with form - *Magdaleena & Porous*: “hello. is anybody out there?”**  
Readings:                Mulvey, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A71GGInlb\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A71GGInlb_4)  
Guest:                    Elian Mikkola (director, filmmaker)

### **Playing with Form Assignment Due March 12th**

Mar 17/19                **hip hop diaspora, strategies of resistance: “bits and pieces of truth”**  
Readings:                Campbell, Marsh (2020)

Mar 24/26                **questions of access and change: *I’m gonna play loud: GRR and the Ripple Effect***  
Readings:                Marsh (2018)  
This week’s classes will be held on Thursday, March 27th at the RPL (Central Library) 6-9pm.

Mar 31/Apr 2            **teen angst – living life in on-line worlds: “we’re making our fame”**  
Readings:                Boyd and Marwick

### **Strategies of Resistance Assignment Due Apr. 2nd**

Apr 7/9                    **review: “give me the only tree that’s left/ stuff it up the hole in your culture”**

## Reading List

bjork. Biophilia [www.bjork.com](http://www.bjork.com) and check out biophilia on wikipedia.

[http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue11\\_12/boyd](http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue11_12/boyd) (Accessed December 18, 2012).

boyd, danah and Alice Marwick. "Social Privacy in Networked Publics: Teens' Attitudes, Practices, and Strategies." (September 22, 2011).

Campbell, Mark. "Doing the Knowledge: Digitally Archiving Hip Hop in Canada," In *We Still Here: Hip Hop North of the 49th Parallel*, Eds. Marsh and Campbell, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2020.

Dyer, Richard. "The White Man's Muscles." *The Masculinity Studies Reader*, ed Rachel Adams and David Savran. Massachusetts, and Oxford: Blackwell Publishers. 2002. pp. 262-273.

Foucault, Michel. "The Eye of Power." *Power/ Knowledge*. Ed. Gordon. New York: Pantheon. 1980. pp. 146-165.

Foucault, Michel. "Technologies of the Self." *Technologies of the Self: Selected Essays*. Eds. Martin, Gutton, Hutton. University of Mass Press. 1988. pp. 16-49.

Hall, Stuart. "Encoding and Decoding." *Media and Cultural Studies Keywords*. Eds. Durham and Kellner. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. 2001. pp. 166-176.

Harraway, Donna. "A Cyborg Manifesto." *The Cybercultures Reader*. Eds. Bell and Kennedy. London and New York: Routledge. 2000. 291-324.

Marsh, Charity. "Reading Contemporary Bad Girls: The Transgressions and Triumphs of Madonna's "What it Feels Like for a Girl." *Atlantis: A Women's Studies Journal*. Vol. 34. No. 1. 2009. pp. 111-120.

Marsh, Charity. "Understand Us Before you End Us: Regulation, Governmentality, and the Confessional Practices of Raving Bodies." *Popular Music*. Vol. 25/3. Cambridge University Press, 2006. pp. 415-430.

Marsh, Charity. "The Hip Hop We See. The Hip Hop We Do.: Powerful and Fierce Women in Hip Hop in Canada," In *We Still Here: Hip Hop North of the 49th Parallel*, Eds. Marsh and Campbell, McGill–Queen's University Press, 2020.

Marsh, Charity. "When She Plays We Hear a Revolution. Girls Rock Regina – A Feminist Intervention," in *IASPM Journal*, Fall 2018, pp 88–102.

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. "The Ruling Class and the Ruling Ideas." *Media and Cultural Studies*, ed. Meenakshi Gigi Durham and Douglas M. Kellner. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishers Inc. 2001. pp. 39–42.

McLuhan, Marshall. "The Medium is the Message." *Media and Cultural Studies Keywords*. Eds. Durham and Kellner. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. 2001. pp. 129–138.

Mulvey, Laura. "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema." Excerpts. *Screen*. 1975.

Rodgers, Tara. "Introduction." *Pink Noises: Women on Electronic Music and Sound*. Durham & London: Duke University Press. 2010. pp. 1–24.

Additional Readings will be added to UR courses throughout the term.

**Communication:** Appointments and meetings: Please ensure that you are prompt for our meetings. If you are not able to make it, please provide me with a timely heads-up. I will make every effort to respond to email questions within 24 hours (except weekends).

**Sensitive materials:** This is a class at a university. Students should have every expectation that sensitive materials and debates will take place. If at any point you are uncomfortable you are free to not participate. However, this does not absolve you of responsibility to the materials if they should appear in an assignment or the integrated reflection. Talk to me if this is an issue for you.

**Academic Misconduct:** The procedure around the investigation of academic misconduct is outlined in 5.13.2.3 or the 2012-2013 Undergraduate Calendar or [www.uregina.ca/gencal/ugcal/attendanceEvaluation/ugcal\\_78.shtml](http://www.uregina.ca/gencal/ugcal/attendanceEvaluation/ugcal_78.shtml)

**Plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and will be addressed formally.**

**Harassment Awareness:** *"The University of Regina promotes a learning environment that is free from all forms of harassment and discrimination"*. The University "will neither tolerate nor condone any inappropriate or irresponsible conduct, including any form of behaviour which creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment for work or study through the harassment of an individual or group on the basis of a) race and all race-related grounds such as ancestry, place of origin, color, ethnic origin, citizenship and creed or b) sex, gender or sexual orientation". The policy can be viewed at <http://www.uregina.ca/presoff/vpadmin/policymanual/hr/2010510.shtml>