

Community, Communication, and Computers

Spring Quarter 1999

"Global Forces and Local Spaces"

Eternal gratitude for all that is past.

Eternal service to all the is present.

Eternal responsibility to all that is future.

-- A Zen Monk to Huston Smith

Syllabus



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This is the last quarter of a year-long program entitled Community, Communication, and Computers. We will concentrate on the idea of "community" as it relates to the themes we've been developing all year; different ways in which people communicate and receive information (including stories) that are important to their lives and to the life of the community.

Our modern world demands that we be well-rounded and flexible communicators. This intensive year-long program is for the serious student committed to exploring the relationship of orality and literacy, technology and society. During the year participants will develop skills as creative writers, storytellers and literate technologists. We will weave together strands from many disciplines including performance, literature, writing, media theory, political action, and technology studies. Activities will be designed for the beginning and advanced student and will encourage both collaborative and individual learning. Each student will be expected to master several critical computer skills and those with experience in computer technology will be challenged to advance their abilities.

Designed for both beginning and advanced students, activities will encourage collaboration as well as independent learning, identifying strengths and developing new areas of growth. Over the year students may receive credit in the arts, computer technology, folklore, writing, literature, history, political science, and communications or media theory. Instructional strategies include lectures workshops, performances, seminars (in person and on-line), computer labs, and other venues.

The program has several interrelated objectives:

- Increasing and enriching computer literacy.
- Understanding the challenges and opportunities of modern computing and telecommunications systems within a continuum of human culture, relationships, aspirations, and creativity.

- Developing and exploring innovative uses of communications technology in understanding artistic achievements of the past and challenges of the future.
- Combining and meeting professional and personal goals and aspirations.
- Making a contribution to our communities.

Fall quarter our theme was "Invent the New Media." In that quarter we examined history and theory of communication shifts, various types of mass media including television and the Internet; how media shapes society and how people can help shape media. Winter quarter the theme was be "Folk Tales for the Next 999 Years" in which we concentrated on the ideas of stories: what they mean and what people do with them as we enter the 21st century. This quarter we will take up the theme of "Community Action and Communication." What is a community? What roles does communication play? What can individuals and communities do to strengthen community?

Expectations: Students will be expected to attend and participate fully in all class meetings, read each text faithfully, write reading response papers, and participate in seminars, workshops, performances, and communications projects. Students will be expected to work intensely in groups on class projects, and in on-line group discussions for a minimum of sixteen hours outside of class meetings each week.

Attendance will be taken at each class and workshop meetings. Any student missing a class or workshop must do a make-up project or lose credit.

Meeting Dates

This spring we will be meeting 10 consecutive Wednesday evenings (March 31 to June 2) from 6:00 PM until 10 PM and all day two Saturdays (April 3 and either May 29 or May 22).

Meeting Locations

Our main room assignment is Library 1612. On the first Saturday we will meet in the Cedar Room of the Long House (if you exit the library onto Red Square, the Long House is to the right). Our seminar rooms are also in the library: Lib 1509 and Lib1505. The Plato Lectures will probably take place in one of the lecture halls (the large roundish building)

Assignment Due Dates

Writing workshop: Work on developing and writing a 3 -4 page personal essay or piece of fiction due April 21.

Field Study: Turn in write-up as soon as possible but no later than May 26.

Reading responses:

1. April 14
2. April 28
3. May 12
4. May 26

Individual project:

- Draft of idea due April 7 (week 2)
- Final due May 19

Group project:

- Draft of idea due at end of class, April 7
- Mid project update, list of all members due April 28
- Final due either May 22 or May 29.

Computer Literacy:

- Plan due April 14
- Midterm report April 28
- Final report May 26.

Class Portfolio

Each student is required to keep a class portfolio throughout the quarter. This will be turned in during the fifth week and at the end of the quarter for evaluation conferences. Include your name, the title, and date of each item in your portfolio. Each section should be arranged chronologically. The portfolio must be kept in a loose leaf three ring binder with dividers and should contain the following:

1. Course syllabus, covenant, and class handouts
2. Class lecture and workshops
3. Seminar notes
4. Writing Workshop
5. Individual project(s) -- planning, research, development notes
6. Group project -- planning, research, development notes
7. Reading Responses to required texts. Follow format on reading response handout.
8. Field trip response.
9. Computer Literacy
10. Self and Faculty evaluations

Field Studies

Each student will be responsible for one field study (2 - 4 hours). This means attending one or more cultural, artistic, political event and reporting on its relationships to the themes. Responses and reactions must be written up, titled, dated, and turned in before Week 8. If you're unsure of the suitability of the field trip or your plan to address this requirement, talk to your seminar leader. Note that the field trips will often be off-campus and some may involve a registration fee.

Field trip possibilities include:

- 1) Terry Tempest Williams, Unsold Lecture, Friday, April 30th, 7:30, The Longhouse
- 2) Conceiving The Future: Artists, Schools, & Communities of the 21st Century, May 20-22, 1999, at the Tacoma Sheraton Hotel. Contact the Washington State Arts Commission for registration forms, 360-586-2418.
- 3) Story telling performances at the Tacoma Art Museum, local elementary schools, and for Behavior Health Resources: The Intensive Support Living Program for adults living with chronic mental illness. More information to be distributed later.
- 4) The aids quilt exhibit.

Computer Literacy

Each student will be expected to improve their computer skills and expertise. We will be concentrating on JavaScript, a popular web programming language. There will also be other opportunities for other computer literacy development including teaching other students.

Outside Activities

Individual Projects. Each student will produce an individual project that incorporates community action *and* individual reflection. Students have the option of integrating computer technology into the project -- creating in effect a *cyber service* project; developing resources for community service learning, or other activities which explore and augment program themes.

Group Projects. Each student will be involved in a group project with 2 to 5 other students. The project should incorporate themes from this program and integrate work from all students in a coherent way. We also hope that many of the projects will interact with the *outside world* in some way. The project should culminate in some type of presentation or performance to the class.

On-Line Workshops and Seminars

Each student is expected to participate in several ongoing on-line seminars in addition to our in person seminars. For that reason students should have a computer with telecommunications capabilities at home or be prepared to go to a location with those capabilities on a regular basis.

In order to participate in web based and on line collaborative projects, students must have access to these minimum computer requirements.

- 1) TESC e-mail account
- 2) Netscape Navigator or Communicator.
Netscape Communicator (version 4.x) is what we use in the computer center. It is our preference for ease of use.
- 3) Access to a local Internet Service Provider (ISP).
(We recommend getting a local provider. Access though AOL tends to be slow and project work is sometimes disrupted.)

Our program has received a Plato Grant to pilot the use of WebCT and other computer software. Over the year, we will have the opportunity to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of this program for the rest of the campus community. We feel very honored to have you join us in this venture. We will be working closely with Scott Gruenemeier, Susan Bustetter and Pete Pietras in Academic Computer Services.

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Writing Workshops. In addition to in-class workshops students will be responsible for completing one personal essay (or piece of fiction) as part of the writing workshops. This piece of writing can be adapted towards issues in community service or other activities which explore and augment program themes.

Visitors

We are bringing in at least four visitors Spring quarter who will talk about various aspects of community, especially as it relates to the themes that we've been exploring all year. These include:

- Steve Cisler, former head librarian, Apple Computer, currently independent consultant
- Vi Hilbert, elder, Lushootseed tribe
- Laura Sims, story teller, New York City
- Marc Smith, research sociologist, Microsoft, co-editor *Communities in Cyberspace*.

Readings (All available from the Evergreen book store)

Changing Community. Scott Walker (Ed.). Graywolf Press, 1993.

Communities in Cyberspace. Marc Smith and Peter Kollock (Eds.). Routledge, 1999.

New Community Networks: Wired for Change. Doug Schuler. Addison-Wesley, 1996.

Woman on the Edge of Time by Marge Percy, Fawcett, 1976.

The *Spring CCC Reader*, another fascinating collection of readings edited by Rebecca Chamberlain and Doug Schuler.

For those taking the JavaScript component we will use *Teach Yourself JavaScript 1.3*. Michael Moncur. SAMS, 1999.

Program Schedule

March 31, 1999 [first Wednesday]

"I have learned a lot about Detroit - the city in which I was born. Not only have I been the recipient of many urban geography lessons, but also socio-economic political lessons from several dusty, rag-clad professors who hold all day office hours on street corners."

- Carl McGowan, youth volunteer, Detroit Summer, 1992 (*Cool Places*)

Introduction to this quarter of the CCC program (45 minutes); syllabus review, *why is community important?*

Welcome to the Communities" Workshop (1 1/2 hours)

Break (15 minutes)

Community Stories Workshop (1 1/2 hours)

April 3, 1999 [first Saturday] -- In the Long House!

I think constantly of the future-- of the children, and of the need for all children to go into the future as a single, sacred community. The children of the trees, the children of the birds, the children of the animals, the children of the insects--all children, including the human children, must go together into the future, There's no future for the human children if there's no future for the children of those other life forms. The vigour and sensitivity of childhood is, for me, one of the great inspirations, because the childhood experience is refreshing, spontaneous, wholehearted, and fearless.

Thomas Berry, "Belonging" in Parabola

Program announcements (15 minutes)

Communities of Place Lecture (Rebecca) (1 1/2 hours)

Morning Break (15 minutes)

Parallel Session I (1 1/2 hours)

JavaScript workshop (Doug) -- In the Mac Lab

Writing from Nature workshop -- In the Long House, Cedar Room

Potluck Lunch (30 minutes) *Featuring Rebecca's Effervescent Nettle Soup (BYOEU -- bring your own eating utensils!)*

Parallel Session II (1 1/2 hours)

JavaScript workshop (Doug) -- In the Mac Lab

Writing from Nature workshop -- In Long House, Cedar Room

Afternoon Break (15 minutes)

WebCT training (Scott Gruenemeier) in the PC Lab (2 hours)

April 7, 1999 [second Wednesday]

These pages seek nothing more than to echo the silence and peace that is "heard" when the rain wanders freely among the hills and forests. But what can the wind say when there is no hearer?

Thomas Merton "Love and Living"

Program announcements (15 minutes)

Social Networks & the Strength of Weak Ties Lecture (Doug) (1 1/4 hours)

Break (15 minutes)

Six Degrees workshop (Doug) (1 1/4 hours)

Group project meeting #1 (1 hour)

Turn in group ideas at end of class.

April 14, 1999 [third Wednesday]

The least of the work of learning is done in classrooms.

How did the psyche withdraw so thoroughly from the world around us, leaving cedar trees, the spiders, the stones, and the storm clouds without that psychological depth in which they used to dwell (without, indeed, any psychological resonance or even relevance)? How did the psyche, the spirit, or the mind retreat so thoroughly into the human skull, leaving the air itself a thin and taken for granted presence, commonly equated, today, with empty space?

David Abram. *The Spell of the Sensuous*

Program announcements (15 minutes)

Vi Hilbert presentation (2 hours) *Native Culture, Community, and Stories of Puget Sound*

Seminar (1 1/2 hours) L 1509 (Rebecca) / L 1505 (Doug)

Break (15 minutes)

Reading response #1 due.

April 21, 1999 [fourth Wednesday]

By almost every measure, Americans' direct engagement in politics and government has fallen steadily and sharply over the last generation.

- Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone*

Program announcements (15 minutes)

Lecture -- Rebecca (1 hour)

Parallel Session I (1 1/4 hours)

JavaScript workshop (Doug) -- In the Mac Lab

Writing workshop (Rebecca) -- In L 1612

Break (15 minutes)

Parallel Session II (1 1/4 hours)

JavaScript workshop (Doug) -- In the Mac Lab

Writing workshop (Rebecca)-- In L 1612

April 28, 1999 [fifth Wednesday]

While debates about globalization have burgeoned within the social sciences, the notion of 'global civil society' is not yet a well-developed or widely used notion. Elise Boulding has argued that the growth in 'globe-spanning associations of private citizens' is one of the most striking phenomena of the twentieth century, growing from the 176 international non-governmental organizations in 1909 to the scores of thousands active as we approach the end of the century (Boulding, 1998:35).

from *Electronic Empires: Global Media and Local Resistance* Ed by Daya Kishan Thussu. Arnold, London. 1998.

Program announcements (15 minutes)

Mid-quarter conferences

Movie; The Making of the American Quilt

Seminar (1 1/2 hours) -- student led -- divide into at least four groups

Break (15 minutes)

group project meeting #2

Reading response #2 due.

Unsoeld Lecture: Terry Tempest Williams, Friday, April 30, 7:30 PM Longhouse.

May 5, 1999 [sixth Wednesday]

There is a mistaken notion that our society has a problem in terms of effective human services. Our essential problem is weak communities. While we have reached the limits of institutional problem-solving, we are only at the beginning of exploring the possibility of a new vision for community. It is a vision of regeneration. It is a vision of reassociating the exiled. It is a vision of freeing ourselves from service and advocacy. It is a vision of centering our lives on community.

John McKnight

Announcements (15 minutes)

Special Guest Presentation -- Marc Smith -- Communities in Cyberspace (1 1/2 hours)

Break (15 minutes)

Prison movie; Introduction by Rebecca

Group project meeting

May 12, 1999 [seventh Wednesday]

In universities, people know through studies. In businesses and bureaucracies, people know by reports. In communities, people know by stories.

John McKnight

Announcements (15 minutes)

Lecture -- Doug (1 1/2 hours)

Break (15 minutes)

Seminar (2 hours)

Reading response #3 due.

May 19, 1999 [eighth Wednesday]

Program announcements (15 minutes)

Steve Cisler -- presentation - Plato Lecture

Project meeting #3

Break (15 minutes)

May 20 - 22: *Conceiving the Future: Artists, Schools, and Communities of the 21st Century*. Tacoma Sheraton Hotel.

May 26, 1999 [ninth Wednesday]

Program announcements (15 minutes)

Group Meetings (30 minutes)

Break (15 minutes)

Laura Sims Plato presentation (2 hour)

Seminar (1 hour)

Reading response #4 due.

May 29, 1999 [last Saturday] (possibly rescheduled for May 22)

It is misleading to try to understand, and potentially pernicious to foster, community life, without paying attention to the nature of its incorporation into structures of large-scale social integration

Craig Calhoun (1986).

Program announcements (15 minutes)

Group project presentations I (1 1/2 hours?)

Morning Break (15 minutes)

Group project presentations II (1 1/2 hours?)

Potluck Lunch (1 hour)

Group project presentations III (1 hours?)

Community Networking -- Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow -- Lecture, Doug

Afternoon Break (15 minutes)

Community Action Agenda Workshop

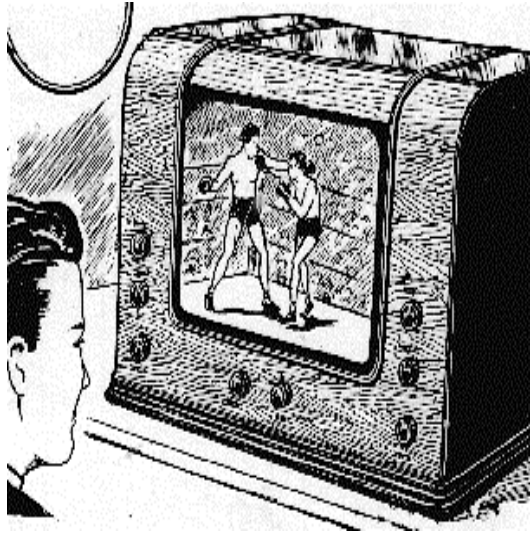
June 2, 1999 [tenth Wednesday]

Program announcements (15 minutes)

Break (15 minutes)

Recreating New Communities: A Council of All Beings (1 hour)

A(nother?) Ritual (Designed by class or a portion of class as part of their individual or group project.)



*Global forces and local spaces:
Are you a spectator??*

Readings & Reading Response Schedule

We will be doing weekly readings and turning in four reading responses over the quarter. Before composing your reading responses, please review and follow the procedures outlined in the handout, *Guidelines For Weekly Reading Responses*.

Reading Schedule & Due Dates: :

Week 1:- Sat. April 3

Handout: Snyder, Gary. *A Village Council Of All Beings*

Changing Community, Ed. Scott Walker

- I. The Individual And The Village
Kathleen Norris- The Beautiful Places/33
- IV. The Ecological Model Of Community
Thomas Berry- Bioregions/185
James Cowen- Aboriginal Solitude/195
Suzuki & Knudson- The Nature Of Things/203
Tim Luke- Community and Ecology/207
- V. Finding The American Tribe
Gary Snyder - Coming In To The Watershed/261
Daniel Kemmis- The Last Best Places/277

Week 2: Wed. April 7

Changing Community, Ed. Scott Walker

- I. The Individual And The Village
Vaclav Havel- Politics, Morality, & Civility/9
- II. The Disappearance Of The Nation State
Peter Laslett- Europe's Happy Families/47
Jane Kramer- Letter From Europe/57
Thomas Fleming-A League Of Our Own/101
- V. Finding The American Tribe
Lewis Lapham- Who and What Is American?/225

New Community Networks: Wired For Change. Schuler, Doug.
Chapter 1, Community and technology Marriage of Necessity
Chapter 2, Conviviality and Culture
Chapter 3, Education

Week 3: April 14

Reading Response One Due

CCC Reader:

- Snyder, Gary. Snyder, Gary. *A Village Council Of All Beings*
- Macy, JoAnna. *World As Lover, World As Self* -Council Of All Beings.
- Abraham, David. *The Spell Of The Sensuous: Perception & Language In a More Than Human World*.
- Hilbert, Vi. *A Time Of Gathering: Chief Seattle's Speech*
- Castells, Manuel. *The Power Of Identity*: Blackwell Publishers, 1997.
Ch. 3 The Greening Of The Self: The Environmental Movement"
- ?-Gallagher, Winnifred. *The Power Of Place.: How our Surrounding Shape Our Thoughts, Emotions, & Actions.* "From The Nest To The Global Village" 177-188

Week 4: April 21

Schuler, Doug. *New Community Networks: Wired For Change*.
Chapter 4, Strong Democracy
Chapter 5, Health and Well-Being

Chapter 6, Economic Equity, Opportunity, and Sustainability
 Chapter 7, Information and Communication
 Chapter 8, Social Architecture
 Chapter 11, Direction and Implications

Week 5: April 28

Reading Response Two Due

Changing Community, Ed. Scott Walker

- III. Disciplines & Decipleship
- Anonymous- Companions Of Duty/129
- Jean Harris- Finding The Gift In It/139
- Phil Catalfo- America On Line/163
- Terry Tempest Williams- White Pelicans/177

Woman On The Edge of Time. Percy, Marge.
 Chapters 1-6, p. 1-126

Week 6: May 5

Woman On The Edge of Time. Percy, Marge.
 Chapters 7-19, p. 127-381

Week 7: May 12 Reading Response Three Due

CCC Reader:

- Roxbury: Capitalist Investment or Community Development?
- Dowmunt, Tony , An Alternative Globalization.
- McKnight, J. On Community, from *The Careless Society: Community and its Counterfeits*,
- Breitbart, Myrna. Dana's Mystical Tunnel: Young People's Designs for Survival and Change in the City. *Cool Places: Geographies of Youth Cultures*.
- Putnam, R. *Bowling alone: America's declining social capital*.

Week 8: May 19

Communities In Cyberspace. Marc Smith

Chapter 1, Communities in cyberspace; Peter Kollock and Marc Smith

Chapter 3, Reading race Online: discovering racial identity in Usenet discussions; Byron Burkhalter

Chapter 7, Virtual communities as communities: Net Surfers don't ride alone; Barry Wellman and Milena Gulia

Chapter 8, Invisible crowds in cyberspace: mapping the social structure of the Usenet; Marc Smith

Week 9: May 26 Reading Response Four Due

CCC Reader: Laura Simms, *Cultivating Community*

Communities In Cyberspace. Marc Smith

Chapter 9, The economies of online cooperation: gifts and public goods in cyberspace; Peter Kollock

Chapter 10, The promise and peril of social action in cyberspace: ethos, delivery, and protests over MarketPlace and the Clipper chip; Laura Gurak

Chapter 11, Electronic homesteading on the rural frontier: Big Sky Telegraph and its community; Willard

Uncapher

Chapter 12, Cyberspace and disadvantaged communities: the Internet as a tool for collective action; Christopher Mele.

Hilbert, Vi. _____ A Time Of Gathering. Univ. WA. Press, 1991.
 "When Chief Seattle Spoke." 259-266.

Abraham, David. The Spell Of The Sensuous: Perception & Language In a More Than Human World. Pantheon, 1996. "Animism & The Alphabet," 93-136

Gallagher, Winnifred. The Power Of Place.: How our Surroundings Shape Our Thoughts, Emotions, & Actions."
 "From The Nest To The Global Village" 177-188

Snyder, Gary. A Place In Space. Counterpoint Press, 1995.
 "A Council Of All Beings: Community, Place,
 & The Awakening Of Compassion." 74-81
 "The Politics Of Ethnopoetics" 129-147

Castells, Manuel. The Power Of Identity: Blackwell Publishers, 1997. Ch. 3 The Greening Of The Self: The Environmental Movement" 111-133.

Macy, JoAnna. World As Lover, World As Self "Opening New Doors"
 -The Greening Of The Self 183-192
 -Council Of All Beings. 198-207
 -To Reinhabit Time 206-219

Web, Craig. Magical Blend, #64.
 Collectively Redreaming Our Global Self. 28-32.

1. Dowmunt, Tony , An Alternative Globalization. (1998) In Electronic Empires: Global Media and Local Resistance. Oxford University Press. pages 246-256. (If not Oxford Press, try Arnold Publishing, London.) ISBN 0 340 71896 X

2. McKnight, J. On Community, from The Careless Society: Community and its Counterparts, BasicBooks, 1995. Pages 153 - 172 ISBN 0-465-09126-1

3. Putnam, R. (1995, Jan.). Bowling alone: America's declining social capital. Journal of Democracy. Pages 65 - 78

4. Roxbury: Capitalist Investment or Community Development? Marie Kennedy, Marico Gaston (sp?), and Chris Tilly in Fire in the Hearth: The Radical Politics of Place in America. Mike Davis, Steven Hiatt, Marie Kennedy, Susan Ruddick and Michael Sprinker, 1998. London: Verso. Pages 97-136 ISBN 0-86091-976-5 (paperback) or 0-86091-263-9

5. Breitbart, Myrna. Dana's Mystical Tunnel: Young People's Designs for Survival and Change in the City. Cool Places: Geographies of Youth Cultures. Tracy Skelton and Gill Valentine (Eds.) (1998). London: Routledge. Pages 305 - 327. ISBN 0-415-14921-5.

6. Feminist Internationalism: Imagining and Building Global Civil Society, Annabelle Sreberny, (1998) In Electronic Empires: Global Media and Local Resistance. Oxford University Press. pages 208 - 222. (If not Oxford Press, try Arnold Publishing, London.) ISBN 0 340 71896 X

7. Calhoun, C. (1980, Jan.). Community: toward a variable conceptualization for comparative research. Social History. Pages 105 - 129.

8. Granovetter, Mark, The Strength of Weak Ties, American Journal of Sociology, Volume 78, number 6 (1970 I think). Pages 1360 - 1380.

9. Putnam, R. (1993, Spring). The prosperous community - social capital and public life. *The American Prospect*. Pages 35 - 42.

Essays For Writing Workshops:

Snyder, Gary. *A Place In Space*. Counterpoint Press, 1995.

"Unnatural Writing" p. 163-172

"The Politics Of Ethnopoetics" 129-147

Williams, Terry Tempest, *Unspoken Hunger*. "The Village Watchman" 385-392

Ross, Carolyn, Ed. *Writing Nature: An Ecological Reader For Writers*. St. Martins's Press, 1995. Rhetoric: "Writing About Personal Experience" 193-207

-Alice Walker, "Am I Blue." 243-246

-Aldous Huxley, "Brave New World" (Ch. 1) 275-285

-Ursula LeGuinn, "May's Lion" 307-313

-Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic--Community Concept" 432-448