

INFO 203, Spring 2013 - Assignment 3

Due Date: Tuesday April 16th

Assignment #3 Details:

- Assignment 3 is due at the beginning of class
- Bring two stapled copies of your assignment to class
- WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT TO FACILITATE BLIND GRADING
- Papers should be double-spaced, 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman).
- Include word count at the end of each answer (you should be within 50 words of the stated word count)
- For Part I cite quotes and paraphrase arguments from the readings using parenthetical documentation according to page number of the reading (not the reader pagination), i.e. (Ackerman, p. 24).
- For Part II please include a bibliography in a standard format* for any additional readings you cite that are not part of the course syllabus - see <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/citations.html> for format.
- Grading criteria (as before): you will be graded on (1) your fully answering all aspects of the questions, (2) your understanding of course readings (how you reference them in your essays) (3) the logic of your claims (4) your extension of concepts and arguments from course readings to new situations/topics

Part I (50%) – Glossary of Internet Culture (8 points):

This will be a two-person team writing exercise. You pick your writing partner and a glossary term. Choose one of the terms listed below or another you come up with (*if you pick one not on the list, run it by us*). **Please e-mail the name of your partner and your term by Thursday 4/4 to Jen – schradie@berkeley.edu**

For the term you select, please do the following in your essay:

- (1) explain the origins of this term or thing, the Internet-related practice or problem it denotes, and its significance in online cultures.
- (2) provide two examples from the real-world of its use
- (3) Situate the term in relation to concepts and arguments from **at least 3 course readings from section 3** of the course (*readings from March 14th to April 11th*).

For (1) and (2) you may want to start with Wikipedia (but please dig a little deeper). You may also cite relevant mass media articles and/or possibly scholarly articles (beyond course readings) if you find any. Please cite any sources you use (including Wikipedia). **Length: [~1200 words] plus or minus 50 words.**

1. Avatar
2. Anonymous (the group)
3. Barnstars (on Wikipedia)
4. Emoticons
5. Flaming / flamewar
6. Flash mob
7. Friending

8. Godwin's Law
9. Griefing
10. Internet meme
11. Lurkers
12. Netiquette
13. n00b
14. Sexting
15. Slacktivism / Clicktivism
16. Sockpuppet
17. Spam
18. Trolls
19. Wiki

Part II (50%) – Final Paper Topic (7 points)

1. Write a (provisional) first paragraph for your final paper. Include a **strong thesis statement** that indicates **what you intend to argue** in your paper. This should be based on your reading of **existing published work** rather than requiring novel empirical research. [~ 300 words]

2. **an expanded literature search** in your topic area(s) to identify research that you may draw upon to explain, justify, and support your arguments. **Choose at least 6 key readings (that are NOT on the class syllabus). For each reading provide its full citation, and in a few sentences explain why you expect the paper to be relevant to your topic, and how you may use it in your arguments.** Your readings may include various kinds of literature, but the majority should come from academic sources, including books, conference papers and journal articles. You should have read/skimmed through them enough to evaluate in some detail why they may be relevant and how you may use them. Your response should be approximately 1.5 – 2 pages.

Example of a full citation (journal article):

Baym, N. K., Yan Bing Zhang, and Mei-Chen Lin. (2004). Social Interactions Across Media: Interpersonal Communication on the Internet, Telephone and Face-to-Face. *New Media & Society*. 6(3): 299-318.

3. **a rough sentence outline of your paper (recalling our in-class exercise).** Be as specific as you can be in formulating your justifications and arguments in outline form. The focus of your outline may not necessarily be about what you will ultimately conclude in your paper, but what issues you will address, and what sections will need to be in your paper to accomplish your goal. Your outline should be approximately 1 page. Below is a guide to the general form your outline may follow:

Introduction

State the thesis, the causes and effects to be discussed; comparison of subject X and subject Y; your position on the issue; your proposal if applicable; and the main points that will develop your argument.

Body

First Point, Assertion, Explanation

Supporting evidence (examples, facts, statistics, quoted authorities, details, reasons, examples)

Supporting evidence

Second explanation

Support

Support

Third explanation (continue as above with additional explanations as needed.)

Support

Support

Your proposal (if applicable)

Address opposing viewpoints

Conclusion

Show how explanations (causes) are logical reasons producing the effects discussed; review subject X and subject Y; reiterate your assertion and proposition (if applicable). Reemphasize your thesis in a fresh way, showing how you have achieved your purpose. If you intend to draw to a conclusion about one subject over the other, emphasize that point.

Deal with opposing views unless done above.

Appeal to the reader to see how you have come to a logical conclusion.

Make a memorable final statement.