SI 529 Syllabus – W18

Class: Th: 8:30am-11:30am, G550 DENT  
Instructor: Sarita Schoenebeck (vardi@umich.edu)  
Office hours: Mon, 11am-1pm (please sign up via Google Calendar, slots are in 10-minute increments, you may sign up for multiple slots if you need them), or by appointment, NQ 4389  
GSI: Lindsay Blackwell (lblackw@umich.edu)  
Office hours: Mon, 1-3pm, NQ 4413; Fri, 1-3pm, via Google Hangouts (starting 1/8)

Course Overview  
Online communities are central to how we work, play, learn, and socialize. But why are some successful? Why do so many fail? How can we improve interactions and experiences in online communities? In this course, we will be introduced to social science concepts and theories, such as identity, anonymity, moderation, and trust, and will learn to apply them in a variety of online contexts. This course requires weekly exercises and assignments that connect theory to practice (individual), a major project involving original research of an online community (group), and coming up with an idea for a new online community (individual). Groups will choose their own project with mentorship from the instructor and GSI.

Course Objectives  
The goal for the course is to develop a sophisticated understanding of the theories and practices for observing, analyzing, critiquing, and designing online communities. Students will:  
- Understand important features of online interactions  
- Describe and explain an online community using multiple theoretical frameworks  
- Analyze online interactions critically  
- Design an online community from principles and best practices  
- Discuss and shape emerging topics in online communities

Readings  
We’ll be reading excerpts from a large number of websites, scholarly articles, and book excerpts. Links are provided on the schedule or through Canvas.

Course Tools  
We will use Canvas and Google Drive. You will access and submit assignments on Canvas. The syllabus and schedule are on a Google doc and some in-class activities will take place on a shared Google Drive folder.
Assignments
The table below contains an overview of assignments and grading for this class. The 529 Schedule describes what is expected of you each week. The Assignment due dates are listed below and in the Schedule and descriptions are available in Canvas. In addition to Assignments, Readings and Exercises should be completed before class and you should arrive to class prepared to discuss and debate both.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Community Assessments (8)</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Regularly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Experiences Report</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jan 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>Group</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Mar 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design of New Online Community</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Apr 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>All semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignment format:
Consistency is easier for us to assess and for you to maintain. Use this template for all submissions unless otherwise indicated. It is 1.5 spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman, one-inch margins and contains name, assignment title, and page numbers. Assignments should be titled by LastNameFirstName_Assignment#. For paired or group assignments, include the team’s name and names of all of the group members.

Due Dates and Late Policy
- All assignments are due by class time on the date listed for that assignment
- Any assignment submitted outside of the exact due date and time (as indicated by the Canvas timestamp) will be assessed a penalty of up to 50% in the first 24 hours
- Each additional 24 hours will result in an additional 25% off
- Exceptions to the rules above will be made at the discretion of the instructor

Grading
A+ 100+
A 95-99
A- 90-94
B+ 87-89
B 83-86
B- 80-82
C+ 77-79
C 73-76
C- 70-72

Regrading Policy
If you feel that the merit of your work on any assignment has not been fully recognized, you may choose to submit the assignment for re-grading. To do so, you must explain in an email why you feel your work deserves re-grading. You should provide details and point to specifics in the assignment that you feel merit a higher grade. One of three outcomes is possible: your grade may be raised, it may remain the same, or it may be lowered.

Communication
Canvas is the dissemination method for course materials including lecture notes, assignment descriptions, and the course schedule. You are responsible for keeping up-to-date with the materials on Canvas.

When you email me, we are interacting in a professional context. I expect that you will use appropriate etiquette. Use suitable salutations and signatures. Do not use text message slang or Internet slang. Please use “[529]” at the start of the subject header in any email you send to me.

While I encourage the use of technology as an aid to learning, research suggests that use of personal devices in the classroom can result in worse retention of class material and can be distracting to other students. I will sometimes encourage device use; other times I will not.

Academic Integrity
All assignments in this course are clearly designated as "group" or "individual" assignments. UMSI follows LSA guidelines for academic integrity as follow:
The LSA academic community, like all communities, functions best when its members treat one another with honesty, fairness, respect, and trust. The College holds all members of its community to high standards of scholarship and integrity. To accomplish its mission of providing an optimal educational environment and developing leaders of society, the College promotes the assumption of personal responsibility and integrity and prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct. Academic dishonesty may be understood as any action or attempted action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other member or members of the academic community. Conduct, without regard to motive, that violates the academic integrity and ethical standards of the College community cannot be tolerated. The College seeks vigorously to achieve compliance with its community standards of academic integrity. Violations of the
standards will not be tolerated and will result in serious consequences and disciplinary action. For more information, please see: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/academicintegrity/index.html

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way I teach may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to help us determine appropriate accommodations. SSD typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. I will treat any information you provide as private and confidential. SSD can be contacted at 734-763-3000 or http://ssd.umich.edu/.