

Digital Media and Society – Final Exam

Please read these instructions carefully—failure do so may result in poor performance on the exam.

In Section 1, you **MUST** answer one question. You may choose question number one **OR** question number two. In Section 2, you **MUST** answer one question. You may choose question three or question four.

Each question is worth 12.5 pts for a total of 25 pts. Responses for **EACH** question should be no fewer than 750 words and no more than 1250 words. Exams must be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman typeface set at 12pt, with one-inch margins, page numbers, and a title page. On the title page, include your name, the questions you answered for each section, and a list of the authors and titles you consulted.

Exams are due at the front desk no later than December 23, 2015, at 3pm.

Plan your time accordingly. You must clearly label my name on folder or envelope. The front desk will put a time stamp on your exam. Also please be aware that you need to make copies of your documents in advance. The front desk cannot provide copies for you.

Section 1 (Answer question one or two below)

1. Astra Taylor (2014:50) argues that the fate of creative people, in the new economy, is to “exist in two incommensurable realms of value and be torn between them—on the one side, the purely economic activity associated with straightforward selling of goods or labor; on the other the fundamentally different, elevated forms of value we associate with art and culture.” Drawing on relevant examples from Taylor’s work and one other text we have studied this semester, explain how the move to online economies complicates the lives of artists, teachers, activists and others who view their work as serving “the public good.”

2. As Fred Turner (2006:180) notes, Stewart Brand believed that “intimate technology” makes life and leisure synonymous. Brand agreed with Nicholas Negraponte that, for those who experienced it, the growing overlap of work life and leisure time was “a privileged existence” (quoted in Turner 2006:180). In your own words, explain why Brand and his affiliates are so optimistic about the capacity of technology to change our lives for the better while others we have read this semester are more skeptical about this shift. Your essay must include examples from Fred Turner’s work and relevant details from at least one other work we have studied this semester.

Section 2 (Answer question three or four)

3. Drawing on salient points from Tiziana Terranova and Fred Turner's work, explain how the new economy alters common ways of thinking about counter culture and political resistance.

4. Choose two essays from Trebor Scholz's edited volume *Digital Labor* to compare and contrast. Your essay must demonstrate your understanding of the argument presented in each text and explain why you think one essay does the better job of articulating the socio-political environment that has accompanied the rise of digital media.