University of Toronto Faculty of Information  
INF 3006: Major Area Reading Course  
Revised and approved: 7 December 2017  
Previous revisions: June 2014; November 2012; June 2010

GOAL
To guide the student’s progress in acquiring the subject knowledge needed to achieve candidacy and to conduct successful thesis research.

OBJECTIVES
1. to assist the student in identifying, reviewing, and evaluating the relevant literature in his or her chosen research area;
2. to guide the student in developing a defensible thesis proposal within his or her chosen research area.

PLACEMENT OF COURSE IN DOCTORAL PROGRAM
INF 3006 is a three-term course to be taken by students in the second year of the doctoral studies program. The work completed in INF3006Y, in conjunction with the Qualifying Examination work, provides a foundation for the thesis proposal which is completed and defended in the third year of the program.

METHOD
Independent reading by student supplemented by regularly scheduled one on one meetings with advisor, the details of which will be spelled out in a contract jointly prepared by the student and advisor. The contract should be completed and signed by the student and advisor by the end of the third week of term 1 of the course (see Appendix A). The advisor will then submit the contract to the PhD Director for approval. A copy of the contract will be placed in the student’s file.

EVALUATION
Each term will have at least one major assignment due at the end of that term. Additional interim assignments may be required. The specific format for each assignment will be determined by the advisor in consultation with the student; however, the aim of each assignment should be to advance the student’s progress toward the successful completion of a thesis proposal.
Appendix A

University of Toronto Faculty of Information
INF 3006Y: Major Area Reading Course

Course Contract between Research Advisor and Doctoral Student

The research advisor and student will review the contract together, and select the options that are best-suited to the aim of advancing the student’s progress toward the preparation of a defensible thesis proposal.

Each term will have at least one major assignment due at the end of that term that summarizes the work completed over the course of that term(s). Additional interim assignments may be required. The relative weights of each assignment will be specified in the contract.

The contract should note the format, weight and due dates of major and interim assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment format</th>
<th>Weight of assignment</th>
<th>Assignment due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature review and material scoping of Early Internet Discourse. Includes identification of major sources, topics, and discourses. This will assist in identifying:</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Mid-December 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• types of sources, location of sources, ethics of and access to sources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• scope: Canada/N.A., which magazines (women’s, home, children’s), archives (digital – ie: Internet Archive, GeoCities – and physical – ie: curriculum, education tools, PSAs, manuals), active policies and debates, and corporate interest.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography of Web Archiving Research and Methodology. This will develop a working</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>End of April 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
knowledge of current scholarship in web archiving research and methodologies, and will be integral to the methods section of thesis proposal. Annotated Bibliography will identify and summarize theories and approaches to web archives as a historical source.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Presentation and Paper</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>End of August 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building on previous work, this paper and presentation will be developed through the materials and theories engaged with in 3006. Paper will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The contract should also note the frequency and timing of regular meetings between the student and advisor. (specify weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, etc. and preferred time and day of week)

Specify proposed meeting dates:

Fall semester: Bi-weekly, Monday or Tuesday scheduled meetings.

Winter semester: TBD, likely through Skype as Prof. Shade will be on admin leave and not in Toronto on a regular basis.

This contract must be completed and signed by both the research advisor and student by the end of WEEK THREE of the student’s enrolment in 3006Y. A completed and signed copy of this contract will be submitted to the Director of Doctoral Studies for approval. Once the Director of Doctoral Studies has approved the contract, a copy will be placed in the student’s file.

This contract may be revised or replaced at any time by mutual consent of advisor and student and resubmitted to the Director of Doctoral Studies for approval.

Name of Student (please print): Katherine Mackinnon

Signature of Student: [Signature] Date: Sept 27, 2018
Name of Research Advisor (please print): Dr. Leslie Regan Shade

Signature of Research Advisor: Date: September 27, 2018

Date submitted to PhD Director:

Date contract approved:

Signature of PhD Director:
University of Toronto Faculty of Information

INF 3006: Major Area Reading Course

Revised and approved: 7 December 2017
Previous revisions: June 2014; November 2012; June 2010

GOAL
To guide the student’s progress in acquiring the subject knowledge needed to achieve candidacy and to conduct successful thesis research.

OBJECTIVES
1. to assist the student in identifying, reviewing, and evaluating the relevant literature in his or her chosen research area;
2. to guide the student in developing a defensible thesis proposal within his or her chosen research area.

PLACEMENT OF COURSE IN DOCTORAL PROGRAM
INF 3006 is a three-term course to be taken by students in the second year of the doctoral studies program. The work completed in INF3006Y, in conjunction with the Qualifying Examination work, provides a foundation for the thesis proposal which is completed and defended in the third year of the program.

METHOD
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EVALUATION
Each term will have at least one major assignment due at the end of that term. Additional interim assignments may be required. The specific format for each assignment will be determined by the advisor in consultation with the student; however, the aim of each assignment should be to advance the student’s progress toward the successful completion of a thesis proposal.
Appendix A

University of Toronto Faculty of Information
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Course Contract between Research Advisor and Doctoral Student

The research advisor and student will review the contract together, and select the options that are best-suited to the aim of advancing the student’s progress toward the preparation of a defensible thesis proposal.

Each term will have at least one major assignment due at the end of that term that summarizes the work completed over the course of that term(s). Additional interim assignments may be required. The relative weights of each assignment will be specified in the contract.

The contract should note the format, weight and due dates of major and interim assignments.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment format</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annotated bibliography of pandemic and crisis literature</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>End of August 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This annotated bibliography will provide a theoretical foundation for investigating pandemic and crisis phenomena. The theoretical interventions accounted for at this stage will inform the following literature review and conference presentation and paper. This assignment will assist in identifying:

- theoretical concepts and frameworks related to the politics, economics, and ethics of pandemics and other crises
- scope: critical interdisciplinary approaches to pandemics and crises, peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed perspectives
- format: living document with crux and highlights of each
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Literature review of popular discourse of pandemic-related digital divides</strong></td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Mid-December 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informed by the critical theoretical perspectives combined in the annotated bibliography, this literature review will assess and critically discuss the popular discourse of digital divides during the COVID-19 pandemic.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• scope: popular discourse including news articles, opinion articles, public forums, blogs, etc.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference Presentation and Paper</strong></td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>End of April 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building on previous work, this paper and presentation will be developed through the materials and theories engaged with in 3006. Paper will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The contract should also note the frequency and timing of regular meetings between the student and advisor. (specify weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, etc. and preferred time and day of week)

Specify proposed meeting dates:

Spring/summer semester: Every 2-3 weeks via video conferencing software
Fall semester: Every 2-3 weeks at Dr. Shade’s office
Winter semester: Every 2-3 weeks at Dr. Shade’s office

This contract must be completed and signed by both the research advisor and student by the end of **WEEK THREE** of the student’s enrolment in 3006Y. A completed and signed copy of this contract will be submitted to the Director of Doctoral Studies for approval. Once the Director of Doctoral Studies has approved the contract, a copy will be placed in the student’s file.

This contract may be revised or replaced at any time by mutual consent of advisor and student and resubmitted to the Director of Doctoral Studies for approval.
Name of Student (please print): Monica Jean Henderson

Signature of Student: Date: April 14, 2020

Name of Research Advisor (please print): Dr. Leslie Regan Shade

Signature of Research Advisor: Date: 4/15/20

Date submitted to PhD Director: April 15, 2020

Date contract approved: April 15, 2020

Signature of PhD Director:
INF3006: Major Area Reading Course  
June 2020-March 2021 (three sessions)  

Instructor and Research Advisor: Dr. Tero Karppi  
Reading list developed primarily by Yolanda Zhang, Doctoral Student

GOAL:  
To guide the student’s progress in exploring and acquiring a broad spectrum of perspectives on Media Studies in needed to achieve candidacy and to conduct successful thesis research.

OBJECTIVES:  
There are three expectations with corresponding learning outcomes as follows:  
1. to assist the student in identifying, reviewing, and evaluating the relevant literature in the fields of media theory and platform studies;  
2. to guide the student in developing a defensible thesis proposal;  
3. enable the student to begin a thesis chapter.

GRADES:  
Weekly Response Paper.   (Due every week)   25%  
Thesis Proposal Draft        (Due August 31st, 2020)       15%  
Thesis Proposal                 (Due December 23rd, 2020)  25 %  
5000-words Research Paper (Due April 30th, 2021)  35%

WEEKLY RESPONSE (300 - 600 words):  
For each response, the student will focus on one assigned reading and provide a critical reading of it. The exegetical exercise requires: 1) Restating and reconstructing an author’s arguments; 2) Contextualizing the argument within current debates in the field; 3) Highlighting how the argument provides a new perspective on current debates in the field; 4) Considering how/if this shapes the student’s research project/practice.

THESIS PROPOSAL (5000-10,000 words):  
Building on the response papers as well as additional materials, the student will develop a research proposal that:

   a. Describes the overarching issue and explains its interest and importance;  
   b. Identifies the methods/methodologies/concepts/approaches that would be used to address the issue;  
   c. Explains why that those approaches and frameworks were chosen;  
   d. Formulates, in detail, the specific questions that would be asked so as to fit the chosen methodological/analytic framework; and  
   e. Defends a claim that the proposed choice of methods or analytic techniques will “do the best justice” to the topic—by arguing how and why the results that would emerge from investigating the topic in this way would be most authentically illuminating of, fair to, and insightful into what matters most about the issue under investigation.
RESEARCH PAPER (5000 words):
Building on previous work, this paper will be developed through the materials and theories engaged with in this course. Paper will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

PROPOSED MEETING TIMES:
Bi-weekly meeting via video conferencing software throughout the course (Summer, Fall, and Winter semesters).

Name of Student: Yu Xing Zhang
Signature of Student: 
Date: May 20, 2020

Name of Research Advisor: Dr. Tero Karppi
Signature of Research Advisor: Date: May 21, 2020

Date Submitted to PhD Director: May 22, 2020
Date Contract Approved: May 22, 2020

Signature of PhD Director: 

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

UNIT 1: THE AFFECTIVE TURN REVISITED

MAY 25—0. AFFECT

JUNE 1—1. THE CURIOUS CASE OF AFFECT

JUNE 8—2. THE AFFECTIVE TURN

JUNE 15—3. DECONSTRUCTION, LANGUAGE, AND PSYCHOANALYSIS TO AFFECT AND EMBODIMENT

JUNE 22—4. THE RISE OF AFFECT STUDIES
JUNE 29—5. THE COGNITIVE AND CONSCIOUSNESS

Unit 2: Media Theory, Media Fiction, and Infrastructures Beyond the Earth

JULY 6—6. LOOKING BEYOND THE EARTH

JULY 13—7. HABITUALLY OF OTHER PLANETS

JULY 20—8. PLANETARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND ANTHROPOCENE

JULY 27—9. COLONIZING THE OUTER SPACE: INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

AUGUST 3—10. Survivalism

**Unit 3: Human and Non-human Species**

**AUGUST 10—12. ANIMAL POLITICS**

**AUGUST 17—13. BIOMEDIA**

**AUGUST 24—14. COMPANION SPECIES**

**AUGUST 31—15. THE FORGOTTEN INSECT**

**SEPTEMBER 7—16. THE IMPLICATIONS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**SEPTEMBER 14—17. RENDERING LIFE AND BODIES IN BIOPOLITICAL TIMES**

**SEPTEMBER 21—18. RETHINKING THE HUMAN-ANIMAL RELATIONS**

**SEPTEMBER 28—19. ORGANISMS**

**Unit 4: Media, Technology, and Materiality**

**OCTOBER 5—20. THE CULTURAL TECHNIQUE**

**OCTOBER 12—21. KEY IDEAS OF MEDIA THEORY AND SYSTEM THINKING (CYBERNETICS)**

**OCTOBER 19—22. KEY IDEAS OF MEDIA THEORY: MEDIA AS EXTENSION OF OURSELVES**
OCTOBER 26—23. ATMOSPHERIC/ELEMENTAL MEDIA

NOVEMBER 2—24. MARINE MEDIA

NOVEMBER 9—25. VISUAL TECHNOLOGIES

NOVEMBER 16—26. HAPTIC MEDIA

NOVEMBER 23—27. MEDIA AND SONIC SPACES

NOVEMBER 30—28. INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

DECEMBER 7—29. MATERIALITY AND MEDIA I

DECEMBER 14—JANUARY 10: WRITING AND WINTER BREAK
JANUARY 11—30. MATERIALITY AND MEDIA II

JANUARY 18—31. NEW MATERIALISM

JANUARY 25—32. BRUNO LATOUR

Unit 5: Embodiment, Perception, and Platform-Based Interaction

FEBRUARY 1—33. ON HUMAN PERCEPTION AND ECOLOGY

FEBRUARY 8—34. EMBODIED COGNITION

FEBRUARY 15—35. CYBERNETICS AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE

FEBRUARY 22—36. ON AGENTS OF OBSERVATION AND AGENTIAL REALISM
March 1—37. Hyperobjects: A Postmodern Ecological Approach

March 8—38. Distributed Cognition, Then and Now

March 15—39. Platform

March 22—40. (Un)Intelligent Machines