

CTCS 673: Theories of the Digital



Prof. Tara Mepheron Thursdays 10-1:50 PM

What is the digital? How does the digital reconfigure our understandings of truth, our bodies, the everyday, power, and space? How is the digital intertwined with cultural understandings of gender, sexuality, and difference? Is the digital like and unlike older media? How have digital studies been organized and institutionalized? This course examines various methodologies and theories through which scholars have engaged digital media in order to think through these questions and others. Our concerns will be multiple. We will consider digital media through a variety of lenses: as a technology, as platforms, as code, as a cultural experience, as a variety of texts, as ideology, and as industrial practice. We will focus primarily on digital media within the context of the U.S., but we will also examine the digital's global contexts at key junctures, and you are invited to introduce international comparisons from your own experience and interests. A small number of labs will also introduce students to various digital materials and techniques.