CRITICAL RACE & DIGITAL STUDIES
SYLLABUS VOL. 1
EDITED BY LORI KIDO LOPEZ & JACKIE LAND ON BEHALF OF THE CENTER FOR CRITICAL RACE & DIGITAL STUDIES

As scholars of color, we know that understandings of race and racial inequalities have always been at the center of debates about technology, politics, and power. We designed our first syllabus to provide a broader context for understanding current conversations around technology and democracy by centering the voices and scholarship of people of color. The set of readings included here focus primarily on racial formations in a U.S. context and provides curated introduction to the myriad ways that race has shaped aspects of our digital world—from the infrastructures and policies that support technological development, to algorithms and the collection of data, to the interfaces that shape engagement.

We then highlight the vast body of scholarship on how communities of color have deployed new media in ways that expand the public sphere, contest the status quo, and give voice to their creativity, passion, and desires. This syllabus represents research that has been foundational in developing the field of critical race and digital studies since its origins in the 1990s and cutting edge scholarship that can help us to tackle emerging changes and shifts in the media landscape. We invite anyone who is interested in the topic to check out the readings on the list.

## SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

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WEEK 1: EARLY INTERNET STUDIES ON CYBER-RACE

- Clack, Doris Hargrett. 1995. “Subject access to African American studies resources in online catalogs: issues and answers.” Cataloging & Classification Quarterly 19, no. 2: 49-66.
WEEK 2: FOUNDATIONS IN CRITICAL RACE THEORY & MEDIA


WEEK 3: THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

WEEK 4: BIAS IN ALGORITHMS, INTERFACE, & DESIGN


“DINKINS EXPLORES THE BOUNDS OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS, WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN, MORTALITY AND OUR ABILITY TO EXIST BEYOND THE LIFE OF OUR BODIES (TRANSHUMANISM),”
WEEK 5: DIGITAL METHODOLOGIES & THE COLLECTION OF RACIAL DATA


WEEK 6: CRITICAL RACE APPROACHES TO DIGITAL HUMANITIES

- Bailey, Moya Z. 2011. “All the Digital Humanists Are White, All the Nerds Are Men, but Some of Us Are Brave.” Journal of Digital Humanities 1, no. 1
- Bailey, Moya. 2015. “#transform(ing) DH Writing and Research: An Autoethnography of Digital Humanities and Feminist Ethics.” DHQ: Digital Humanities Quarterly 9, no. 2.
WEEK 7:
INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES TO RACE, GENDER, & SEXUALITY ONLINE

- Noble, Safiya Umoja and Brendesha Tynes. 2016. The Intersectional Internet: Race, Sex, Class and Culture Online. New York: Peter Lang

WEEK 8: ACTIVISM & THE POLITICS OF DIGITAL DIFFERENCE

WEEK 9: CONVERSATION & NETWORKS ON TWITTER


WEEK 10: THE LABOR OF BLOGGING AS A PERSON OF COLOR

WEEK 11: REMEDIATING VIDEO THROUGH YOUTUBE, NETFLIX & DIGITAL TELEVISION


WEEK 12: EMBODIMENT & INTERACTION IN VIDEO GAMES

- LaPensée, Elizabeth. 2017. Thunderbird Strike. (Game)

WEEK 13: DIASPORA & MINORITIZED POPULATIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE

RUHA BENJAMIN (EDITOR), CAPTIVATING TECHNOLOGY: RACE, CARCERAL TECHNOSCIENCE, AND LIBERATORY IMAGINATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE. DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS. (RELEASE JUNE 2019)

RUHA BENJAMIN, RACE AFTER TECHNOLOGY: ABOLITIONIST TOOLS FOR THE NEW JIM CODE. POLITY PRESS. (RELEASE JUNE 2019)

CHARLTON MCILWAIN, BLACK SOFTWARE: THE INTERNET & RACIAL JUSTICE, FROM THE AFRONET TO BLACK LIVES MATTER. OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS. (RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2019)

ANDRE BROCK, DISTRIBUTED BLACKNESS: AFRICAN AMERICAN CYBERCULTURES (CRITICAL CULTURAL COMMUNICATION). NYU PRESS. (RELEASE FEBRUARY 2020)

Background: Datafication of identity from the 1900 U.S. Census; enumerators for 'color or race' were W for White, B for Black, Ch for Chinese, Jp for Japanese, or In for American Indian. Prior to computation, the Census Bureau used tabulators, to display data.