LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Surveillance and Society
Sociology 3811-WDE 2020

Contacting the Instructor (Brian McMillan)

If you have any questions you would like to ask the instructor, please send to brian.mcmillan@lakeheadu.ca.

Course Description

Surveillance and Society examines the nature of surveillance practices in contemporary Canadian society. The course of study identifies and describes a dizzying array of electronic surveillance technologies designed to collect and store the personal information of private citizens, and examines the motives of those organizations which use them. The course identifies several important trends in surveillance practices currently unfolding in Canada including the dramatic expansion and intensification of surveillance, the rise of corporate surveillance (surveillance capitalism), the globalization of surveillance, the increasing use of mobile and location-based surveillance, the embedding of surveillance practices in everyday environments, the rise of voluntary surveillance, and more. The course of study also highlights several important topics such as the securitization vs. privacy rights debate, the growing threat to personal privacy/civil liberties/democratic institutions, surveillance and the law, surveillance in the workplace, surveillance in the schools, surveillance and consumers' right to choose, and more. Also, the course examines several theories of surveillance with a special focus on the Culture of Surveillance Theory.

Readings

The following books are required reading. They are important sources of information for the midterm examination and written assignments. Please refer to the Course Schedule (Content tab) for reading times.

Required Books:

Bennet, C. J., K. D. Haggerty, D. Lyon, V. Steeves. 2014. *Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada.* AU Press, Edmonton, AB.

Lyon, David. 2018. *The Culture of Surveillance: Watching as a Way of Life.* Polity Press, Medford, MA. Required and supplementary online articles are also included in the course of study. Please see Study Modules (Content tab) for particulars and the Course Schedule (Content tab) for reading times.

Grading Scheme

Midterm Exam…………………........…20%
Assignment #1………………………...15%
Assignment #2………………………...…30%
Assignment #3………………………...35%

Video Material

The course of study includes numerous online videos. These videos will *not* be covered on the midterm examination, but may be useful when studying for the midterm examination and preparing your assignments.

You should consider these videos as a very helpful learning resource which will deepen your understanding of important course concepts. You are encouraged to view the videos and post any comments you might have in the appropriate discussion forum. You are also encouraged to read the posts of other students and are invited to respond to any and all posts. The titles and links to the videos can be found in their respective Study Modules in the Content area of our site.

Timed Online Midterm Examination

There is one examination scheduled during the course of study. The exam can be accessed using the *Quizzes* tab on the navigator bar at the top of the page. The exam will be based on the "Introduction" chapter in the Bennett et al. text (Module 1), the "Introduction" chapter in the Lyon text (Module 1), and the online article "Bentham, Deleuze, and Beyond: An Overview of Surveillance Theories from the Panopticon to Participation", Galic et al. (Module 2). The videos are not covered on the exam, but you should consider the videos as a very helpful learning resource.

Review questions have been prepared for the readings covered by the midterm exam (see Modules 1 & 2). I strongly urge you to prepare answers for these review questions and use your answers in your preparations for the exam. I will use the review questions as guidance when setting the exam.

The midterm exam will be comprised of multiple-choice and true-false questions. For further details please refer to "Midterm Examination" using the Content tab on the navigator bar top of page. Please see the *Grading Scheme* for the weighting of the midterm exam, and the *Course Schedule* for the designated examination window date and time.

The midterm examinations will be a timed online test. Timed online tests can be taken from any computer connected to the internet. I wouldn't advise the use of smartphones, or any other wireless devices, because of common connectivity problems.

A timed online test requires you to commence and complete the test within a specified time period on a particular day. You will not be allowed to commence before the designated start time, and you will not be allowed to commence after the designated completion time.

The timed online test will be administered through our course website (D2L). At the time of the exam you will be required to login using your usual Lakehead University username and password. I have set up a mock timed online test to give you a chance to practice logging in and answering questions. Click the *Quizzes* tab on the navigator bar at the top of the page.

Please Note: *Lakehead University has a very strict policy regarding the failure to write formally-scheduled examinations at the prescribed time. Special accommodations, such as a make-up exam, will only be offered when missed examinations are due to medical reasons, for which detailed supporting documentation must be submitted. Work schedules, weddings, travel activities, faulty technology, etc. are not considered acceptable reasons for rescheduling examinations. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the University's policy regarding missed examinations.*

Discussions Forum

Our course site features a Discussions tool (tab located on the navigator bar at top of page) where you can interact with classmates, discuss course concepts and issues, and seek clarification of course content. If you have an issue of a private nature, please do not use the Discussions forum but rather email me directly: brian.mcmillan@lakeheadu.ca

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan. 6-12	Required Reading: "Introduction: How Canadian Lives Became Transparent to Watching Eyes", Bennett et al.
	Required Reading: "Introduction: Surveillance Culture Takes Shape", D. Lyon.
	Video: *Social Media Surveillance: Who is Doing It?*
Jan. 13-19 .	Required Reading: "Bentham, Deleuze, and Beyond: An Overview of Surveillance Theories from the Panopticon to Participation", Galic et al. (online article)
	Video: *Panoptic Surveillance: From Bentham to Foucault*
Jan. 20	DEADLINE: Assignment #1, 11:59 p.m. ET, late penalties apply
Jan. 20-26	Required Reading: "Expanding Surveillance", Bennett et al., ch. 1
	Required Reading: "Securitization and Surveillance", Bennett et al., ch. 2
	Video: *Big Brother, Big Business*
Jan. 25	MIDTERM EXAMINATION: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET
Jan. 27-Feb. 2	Required Reading: "The Blurring of Sectors", Bennett et al., ch. 3
	Required Reading: "The Growing Ambiguity of Personal Information", Bennett et al., ch. 4
	Video: *This is how Google is Spying on Everything You Do*
Feb. 3-9	Required Reading: "Expanding Mobile and Location-based Surveillance", Bennett, ch. 5
	Required Reading: "Globalizing Surveillance", Bennett et al., ch. 6
	Video: *Exposing China's Dystopian Digital Dictatorship*
Feb. 10-23	Required Reading: "Embedding Surveillance in Everyday Environments", Bennett, ch. 7
	Required Reading: "Going Biometric", Bennett et al., ch. 8

Required Reading: "Watching by the People", Bennett et al., ch. 9

Video: *Something Strange You Need to Know about Facial Recognition and Biometric Technology*

Feb. 24-Mar. 1   Required Reading: "Crucibles of Culture", Lyon et al., ch. 1

Feb. 28   DEADLINE: Assignment #2, 11:59 p.m. ET, late penalties apply

Mar. 2-8   Required Reading: "From Convenience to Compliance", Lyon et al., ch. 2

Mar. 9-15   Required Reading: "From Novelty to Normalization", Lyon et al., ch. 3

Mar. 16-22   Required Reading: "From Online to Onlife", Lyon et al., ch. 4

Mar. 23-29   Required Reading: "Total Transparency", Lyon et al., ch. 5

Mar. 30-Apr. 3   Required Reading: "Hidden Hope", Lyon et al., ch. 6

Apr. 3   DEADLINE: Assignment #3, 11:59 p.m. ET, late penalties apply

End