University Studies Cluster Proposal Cover Sheet
For Academic Year 2009-2010

Cluster Proposed for: Freedom, Privacy, and Technology

Title of course: Information Cities

Course Number: USP 457U

Proposing Faculty: Gerry Sussman

Cluster Coordinator: Jamie Ross

Proposal Type:
X Cluster Course to New Cluster
___ New Course to Cluster
___ Removal

Other clusters this course is assigned to:

Proposals are due to the University Studies office (CH 117) with 12 duplicate copies by Friday, November 9, 2007 so that they may be reviewed and forwarded to the UCC Committee for final approval.
University Studies Cluster Course Addition Adding an already approved "U" course to another cluster
(When addressing questions, please attach a separate sheet)

1. COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER: Information Cities

PROPOSING FACULTY (Name, signature, and department): G Sussman

TO WHAT CLUSTER ARE YOU PROPOSING ADDING THIS "U" COURSE?

FOR WHAT OTHER CLUSTER(S) HAS THIS COURSE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED?

1. AVAILABILITY: With what regularity has the course been—or will the course be—offered? 1x/TERM (SPRING)

2. GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS: SUITABILITY & CLUSTER INTEGRITY Discuss the place of this particular course within the cluster to which you wish to add it, indicating how adding the proposed course will contribute to, while also sustaining, the thematic integrity of the cluster. ADDRESSES ISSUES OF PRIVACY AND SURVEILLANCE RELATED TO INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

OBTAIN CHAIR AND CLUSTER COORDINATOR SIGNATURES BEFORE SUBMITTING

DEPARTMENT CHAIR(S): __________________________

DATE: 4/21/08, DATE: __________________________

CLUSTER COORDINATOR: __________________________

DATE: 4/22/08

THE ORIGINAL + 12 COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MUST BE RECEIVED AT UNIVERSITY STUDIES (CH 117) BY NOVEMBER 9, 2007

PROPOSING FACULTY: G Sussman

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: USP 457 U Information Cities
COURSE APPROVED FOR CLUSTER INCLUSION
All changes to Clusters must be approved by PSU’s Senate Curriculum Committee.

CHAIR UNST COMMITTEE: __________________________

DATE: _______________. DATE: ___________.

CHAIR, CLUSTER COORDINATOR: _______________________

DATE: 12/02/08
INFORMATION CITIES
(USP 457U/557)

This course focuses on the co-development of media and information technology networks with American industry and urbanization. It looks at the uses of informational structures in cities and associated aspects in politics, community, culture, citizenship, and economic exchange. We start with the social history of urban and industrial communications and the rise of modern industrial (and "post-industrial") cities. Each new phase of media and information technology corresponds to the growing centrality of industry, commerce, and cities in the transformation of American life. As electronic communications become more pervasive, other forms of communication diminish in use and importance. How does this transformation affect the spirit of a democracy? And what can be done to improve public participation and the quality of urban life in a wired, digital, and cellular society?

Organization and Requirements
The class format consists of lecture, discussion, and research on applied media and information technologies directed toward community development. Class members are expected to read attentively and be prepared to actively discuss the readings in class. Discussion leaders will be assigned. There is a group project and two exams. Attendance is mandatory (one absence max.). No makeups without justifiable reason (10 pt. deduction without medical documentation). No status (i.e., G, P/NP, W) changes after the seventh week.

Evaluation
Participation: 25%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 25%
Group Project: 25%

Required Readings
S. Low and N. Smith, eds., The Politics of Public Space
E. Rennie, Community Media
D. Lyon, Surveillance Society

Lecture/Reading Schedule

1. Apr. 1 Introduction to the Course

2. Apr. 8 Technology and Community
   Read: Rennie, Introduction + Chapters 1 & 2 + Sussman Communication, Technology and Politics in the Information Age, Chaps. 3 & 4
   (online) http://web.pdx.edu/~rcm/school/usp457/CTP...Sussman_Ch3-4.pdf

3. Apr. 15 The Public Interest
   Read: Rennie, Chapters 3 & 4 + Low and Smith, Chapters 1 & 2
4. Apr. 22 Public Space
   Read: Low & Smith, Chapters 3 & 4 + Lyon, pp. 1-36

5. April 29 Private Space
   Read: Low & Smith, Chapters 5 & 6 + Lyon, pp. 37-87
   Submission of Group Project Descriptions (See Assignment Notes)

6. May 6 MIDTERM EXAM (Bring bluebooks)

7. May 13 The Surveillance Society
   Read: Lyon, pp. 88-154

8. May 20 Whose City?
   Read: Rennie, Chapters 6 & 7 + Low & Smith, Chapter 8
   Video: "Hybrid City" or "Holding Ground"

9. May 27 Third World Cities and Information Sovereignty
   Read: Rennie, Chapter 5 + Low & Smith, Chapter 7

10. June 3 FINAL EXAM (Bring bluebooks)

11. June 9 Submission of Group Project Reports (1 pm Deadline)
    June 11 Presentation/Discussion of Group Projects (3:30-5:30 pm)

Note: Any student with a documented disability condition can make
arrangements with the Disability Resource Center at PSU for taking exams or
meeting other needs. Both the instructor and DRC should be contacted at the
beginning of the term.

Assignment Notes for Information Cities

Discussion Leaders. A group/individual initiative intended to focus on central points
and arguments in the assigned readings, raise critical issues, and provoke discussion
among members of the class.

Group Project. The group project involves the collaboration of three or four people per
team in the preparation and presentation of a project report on community and public
media (12 pages text, double-spaced, 12 point font, submitted in duplicate, endnotes
instead of footnotes). Paginate starting on first page of text.

A brief (about 10 minutes) oral presentation will be given by each group during the last
meeting of the term. There are no excused absences for the project presentation.
Groups should begin to coordinate their project studies early and continue to meet
several times during the term. The Group Project Description should be 2 typed pages
(double-spaced, 12 point font, submitted in duplicate). The description should discuss in
detail the nature and organization of the project, how it relates to the larger question of
community development, and how it will be undertaken. See syllabus for submission
deadlines.
A coordinator will be selected by each group to organize meeting times, provide feedback to the instructor on the group’s progress, and see to the synthesis of the project paper. Diverse and critical (social outcomes-focused) points of view within the group should be emphasized. **A group project requires of each participant a high degree of responsibility, maturity, tolerance, engagement, and cooperation. Each group member is expected to contribute equally to the research and writing of the paper.** Grading is based on both individual and group performance.

The **main purpose** of the project is to explore the relationship of community media and community identity. This is accomplished through interviewing and reading about any of the various **public** (non-commercial) and community media (radio, television, cable, theatre, alternative newspapers, monthlies, comics, locally produced zines, public art, graphics or photography, magazines, film, jazz or rock clubs, independent cinemas, important local websites, even signage) in the Portland metropolitan area. The **central questions** to be answered in the report are: What is the meaning of community in a media-saturated society?; and How has (and does) the medium selected contributed to helping form a **unique sense of local identity, culture, empowerment, and community**? The latter question might compare non-commercial public or community media with the attributes of non-local or commercial media.

The project involves starting with a definition of community and studying the origins of the medium, how it has changed over time, and what specific sections of the community it reaches and supports. Subquestions upon which the report might reflect include: Who organized the medium, who runs it, how is it funded and transmitted, how does it maintain its public character, whom does it serve, etc.? How does the medium influence the ways in which people socially, culturally, or politically engage in practical, political, and symbolic interaction? What are the limitations that public media face in an era of growing privatization, commercialization, globalization, and professionalization? How does the medium help people communicate across class, cultural, national, ethnic, ideological, and gender identities and boundaries? How does the medium contribute to the quality of urban life? It is important to keep the topic **well-focused** so that your report can make well-documented observations rather than sweeping generalizations.

A **sample outline** of the final report: 1) the definition of community and the background and origins of the medium in Portland (3 pages); 2) a discussion of the medium -- its strong and weak characteristics as a stimulus of public culture and politics (6 pages); and 3) conclusions about public media versus private, commercial media (3 pages).

**Group Project Topics:** KBOO radio, Portland Community Media, Tualatin Valley Community Television, *Portland Alliance*, KOPB (radio or TV), billboard licensing, local zines, documentary film groups, KBPS (classical music radio), KMHD (jazz radio), local community-oriented (non-commercial) magazines, local community websites, local music concerts (featuring local musicians and composers), and others.
Group Project Evaluation  
Critical Theories in Mass Communication (SP 422U/522)  
Professor G. Sussman

Instructions: Indicate your name and the names of your project co-participants, followed by a rating, 1-5, 1 being the highest (see explanation below)* for the categories that follow. Fold before submitting.

Only the instructor will read this evaluation.

Do not rate yourself.

Your name ____________________________

List your project group co-participants:
a.____________________ b.____________________ c.____________________ d.____________________

Rate the above participants using the following criteria:

1. Showed up regularly to group meetings:  a._______ b._______ c._______ d._______

2. Actively participated in group discussions:  a._______ b._______ c._______ d._______

3. Contributed to conceptualizing the proposal:  a._______ b._______ c._______ d._______

4. Contributed to writing the final report:  a._______ b._______ c._______ d._______

5. In general, acted as a mature and responsible group member:  a.____ b.____ c.____ d.____

Additional comments you wish to add:

*Meaning of Ratings:
1 means Superior Performance  
2 means Good Performance  
3 means Average Performance  
4 means Below Average Performance  
5 means Poor (Falling) Performance