HON-H 399 (Spring 2014)
Digital Culture
Dr. Paul Cook

Midterm(ish) Exam (100 points)

Part I: Short Answer. (49 points). Choose *7* of the following and provide (a) full identification/definition of the term, character, person, figure, or concept; (b) provide an example/illustration; and (c) discuss the larger significance of the term, character, person, or concept, focusing specifically on how it relates to digital culture and/or the economic, social, and philosophical foundations of the digital age.

1. private/public spheres	5. Alan Turing	9. online identity or "e-dentity"
2. virtuality MUDs	6. function creep	10. New Social Movements (NSMs)
3. technological determinism	7. social media	11. MUDs
4. Enframing (*Gestell*)	8. post-Fordism	

Part II: Essay. (51 points). Choose *1* of the following and respond as fully and specifically as you can. Be sure to write up an outline and support your claim(s) with specific evidence.

1. Virtuality and virtual worlds have been—and still are—a major "theme" of digital culture, particularly in terms of entertainment (e.g., video games, online communities like *Second Life*, etc.) and social networking (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Considering our discussions and readings thus far this semester, what do you see as the *future* of the virtual? In other words, given the tools we now have at our disposal, how might you see the virtual-as-concept and/or the virtual-as-practice ten years from now? Twenty years from now?

Feel free to speculate in your response—this prompt sort of demands that you do—but also be sure to support your response with as many specifics from our readings, your notes, and our discussions that you can recall. Be sure to brainstorm and sketch out a brief outline before you begin writing.

2. Imagine you're having a conversation with a friend over coffee or lunch. The conversation turns to school, and your friend asks, "So what is this 'digital culture' thing anyway?" Flesh out a response to your friend in which you detail both an overall "definition" or overview of digital culture and "zero in" on some specific examples and illustrations from our readings and class discussions. Feel free to be creative and innovative in your response.

3. Digital surveillance—by governments, security agencies, the military, and even corporations—is a ubiquitous fact of daily existence in the 21st century. Write a brief essay response in which you first describe and discuss, as fully as possible, some different forms of digital surveillance, and then provide commentary on whether or not (or to what extent) you see these forms of surveillance as useful, dangerous, and/or invasive. Feel free to contrast contemporary forms of surveillance with surveillance and social control from earlier eras, and be sure to support your response with specific examples and illustrations.

Part III: Extra Credit. (2 points each).

1. Will the Indiana Pacers make it to the NBA playoffs this year?

2. Who is the founder and CEO of Facebook?

3. Do androids dream of electric sheep?