WRT 105: Web-Wide World: The Ethics of Virtual Connection

MW 2:00-3:15

Office Hours: Mon., 3:15-4:15; Thurs., 1:30-2:30

Course Description

The 21st century has seen a dramatic shift in borders between public and private, local and global, and even simulated and real. We can tweet at hundreds of followers, Skype to another continent, and hold a conversation with Siri, but it's also possible to hack private photos of celebrities, conduct a drone strike from a desk chair, or lose oneself in artificial worlds. How can we orient ourselves ethically, interpersonally, and politically to capabilities that seem so new? We'll read thinkers like Sherry Turkle, Marshall Mcluhan and Evgeny Morozov, and you'll write, revise, and carry out research to join academic conversation about privacy, self, and community, with a focus on social media and politics; we'll also consider how writing has been impacted by new communication technologies. Your work will culminate in an 8-10 page argumentative research paper, but informal assignments, in-class writing, peer review, revision and self-assessment will help us get to that point.