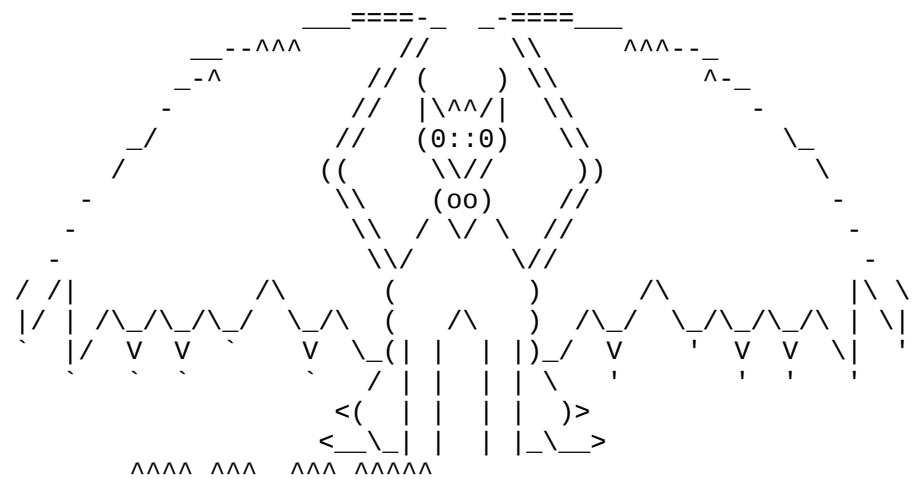

Winter 2015 edition// _____ **Hackers, the Class**
Doing it for phun since 2003

(No, you're not hallucinating, it's a dragon)



Professor: Dr. Gabriella Coleman
Office: West Arts 285
Office hours: Sign up sheet Tuesday 2:30-3:30 PM or by
appointment
Phone: 514-398-8572
E-mail: gabriella.coleman@mcgill.ca

OVERVIEW

This course examines computer hackers to interrogate not only the ethics and technical practices of hacking, but to examine more broadly how hackers and hacking have transformed the politics of computing and the Internet more generally. We will examine how hacker values are realized and constituted by different legal, technical, and ethical activities of computer hacking—for example, free software production, cyberactivism and hactivism, cryptography, and the prankish games of hacker underground. We will pay close attention to how ethical principles are variably represented and thought of by hackers, journalists, and academics and we will use the example of hacking to address various topics on law, order, and politics on the Internet

such as: free speech and censorship, privacy, security, surveillance, and intellectual property. We finish with an in-depth look at two sites of hacker and activist action: Wikileaks and Anonymous.

LEARNER OBJECTIVES

This will allow us to 1) demonstrate familiarity with variants of hacking 2) critically examine the multiple ways hackers draw on and reconfigure dominant ideas of property, freedom, and privacy through their diverse moral codes and technical activities 3) broaden our understanding of politics of the Internet by evaluating the various political effects and ramifications of hacking. Students will be responsible for leading discussions on the readings and critically engaging the readings and class conversations.

READINGS

Most readings are on our course websites. The following books should be purchased for class:

Assange, Julian with Jacob Appelbaum, Andy Müller-Maguhn, and Jeremie Zimmerman
2012 *Freedom and the Future of the Internet* [pp. 1-66]

Coleman, Gabriella
2014 *Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy: The Many Faces of Anonymous*

Doctorow, Cory
2008 *Little Brother*

or

Doctorow, Cory
2010 *Makers*

Sauter, Molly
2014 *The Coming Swarm*

BLOGS/SITES YOU MIGHT WANT TO FOLLOW

<http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/>
<http://lwn.net/>
<http://slashdot.org/>
<http://torrentfreak.com/>

MOVIES

We will watch various films and documentaries in class and you will be asked to watch some before class as well. There will also be a few extra-curricular outings to watch Hollywood films, like Hackers, War Games, and Blackhat.

Week 3

January 21: The underground scene and popular representations of hackers

Dreyfuss, Sulette,
1997 *Underground: Tales of Hacking, Madness, and Obsession on the Electronic Frontier*. [Chapters TBD]

Straw, Will
2002 "Scenes and Sensibilities." Public: Art, Culture and Ideas.

Class visit:

Thomas Geffroyd, Ubisoft, Watchdogs

Question: Marie-Claude

Week 4

January 28: The Underground and the hacker zine

Thomas, Douglass
2003 *Hacker Culture* [chapter 2 and 4 or 4 and 6]

Terrorist, Unix
2008 "Phrack Profile on The UNIX Terrorist."
Phrack
<http://phrack.org/issues/65/2.html>

BRoTHeRHooD oF WaReZ
1999 "YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?" *Bow*.
<http://www.textfiles.com/magazines/BOW/bow9.txt>

Editorial
2008 "The Victor Spoiled." *2600: The Hacker Quarterly*

Anonymous
2008 "The Underground Myth." *Phrack*
<http://www.phrack.org/issues/68/16.html>

Class visit:

Hax0rs

Questions: Caitrin and Pam

Week 5 -----

February 4: Free and open source software

Levy, Steven
1984 "Epilogue." *Hackers*

Hesse, Carla
2002 "The Rise of Intellectual Property, 700 B.C - A.D. 2000: an Idea in Balance." *Dædalus*

Kelty, Chris
2008 *Two Bits: The Cultural Significance of Free Software*
[Chapter 6 and 3 and in that order]

In class video:

dotJS 2012 - Fat -
2012 What Is Open Source & Why Do I Feel So Guilty?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIDb6VBO9os>

Question: Kenza and Matt

Week 6

February 11: Free and open source software continued

Hall, Stuart
1987 "Variants of Liberalism." *Politics and Ideology*

Coleman, Gabriella
2013 *Coding Freedom* [chapter 4, 5, and conclusion]

Class visit:

Free and open source developers

Week 7

February 18: Arrrrrrrr(ggggghhhhhh) Piracy

Anonymous
1994 "The Lamahs-Guide to Pirating Software on the Internet."
<http://www.textfiles.com/piracy/warez.txt>

Editorial
1999 "So You Want to be a Pirate?" *High Noon on the Electronic Frontier*

Liang, Lawrence
2011 "Beyond Representation: The Figure of the Pirate." *Access to Knowledge in the Age of Intellectual Property*
<http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/chapters/189095196Xchap15.pdf>

Bayer, Jessica
2014 "The Pirate Bay: Contribution to Mobilization." *Expect Us: Online Communities and Political Mobilization*

gmaxwell
2011 "Papers from Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society"
<https://thepiratebay.se/torrent/6554331>

In class movie:

Klose, Simon
2013 *The Pirate Bay: Away From Keyboard*

Week 8

Feb 25: Civility, Expertise, and Civic Hacking

Cmiel, Kenneth
1994 "The Politics of Civility." *Sixties: From Memory to History*.

Schrock, Andrew Richard
Forthcoming, Civic hacking as data activism and advocacy:
A history from publicity to open government data

Kubitschko, Sebastian
2015 "'Hackers' media practices: Demonstrating and articulating
expertise as interlocking arrangements." *Convergence: The
International Journal of Research into New Media
Technologies*.

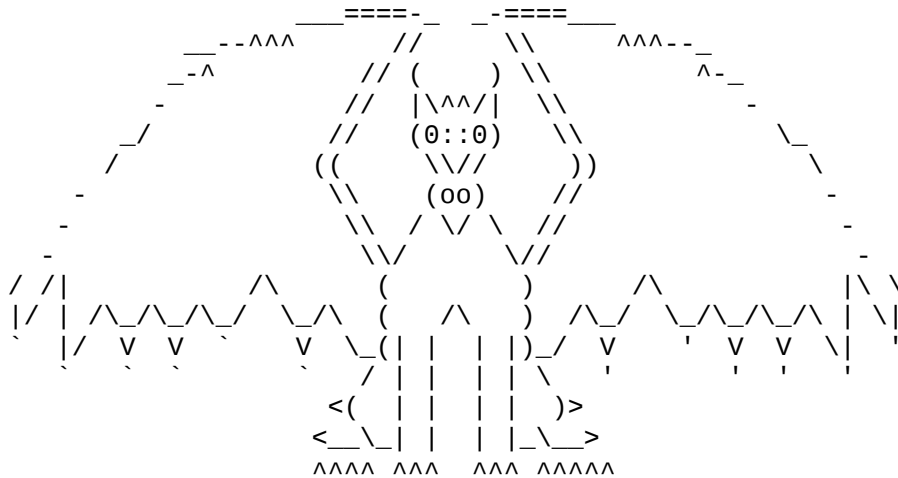
Lennard, Natasha
2013 "When the government approves of hacking." *Salon*.
http://www.salon.com/2013/01/25/when_the_government_approves_of_hacking/

Week 9

March 4

No class Spring break! Wohooo

(No, you're not hallucinating, it's a dragon)



Week 10

March 11: Direct Action and Sabotage

Sauter, Molly
2014 *The Coming Swarm* [Introduction, 1, 2, 3, 5]

Ackroyd, Ryan
2014 "Brother?"
<http://pastebin.com/raw.php?i=fSdTyJSw>

The Invisible Committee
2007 *The Coming Insurrection* [excerpts]

Darin, Barney
2014 "'We Shall not be Moved' On the Politics of Immobility."
Materialities and Imaginaries of the Mobile Internet

Class visit: Darin Barney

In class:

Ghappour, Ahmed
2014 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act and the case of Barrett
Brown.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Si9fp88Ao8&t=29m36s>

Week 11

March 18: Surveillance and Cypherpunks

No class but you are expected to read the following material

Assange, Julian with Jacob Appelbaum, Andy Müller-Maguhn, and
Jeremie Zimmerman
2012 *Freedom and the Future of the Internet* [pp. 1-66]

Week 12

March 25: Surveillance, the Dark Web, and Cypherpunks

Ghel, Robert 2014
"Power/freedom on the dark web: A digital ethnography of the
Dark Web Social Network." *New Media and Society*.

Greenwald, Glenn
2014 "The Harm of Surveillance." *Nowhere to Hide*.

Assange, Julian
2014 Beyond Good and "Don't Be Evil." *When Google Met Wikileaks*

Week 13

April 1: Anonymous

Coleman, Gabriella
2014 *Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy: The Many Faces of
Anonymous*.
[½ book]

Rossiter, Ned and Soenke Zehle
2013 "Privacy is Theft: on Anonymous Experiences,
Infrastructural Politics and Accidental Encounters." *Organized
Networks*. <http://nedrossiter.org/?p=374>

Skype visit with some Anons or IRC visit

Watch before class:

aestetix
2014 *NymRights: Protecting Identity in the Digital Age*
<https://cyber.law.harvard.edu/events/luncheon/2014/09/aestetix>

Week 14

April 8: Anonymous

Coleman, Gabriella

2014 *Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy: The Many Faces of Anonymous* [rest of the book].

Nissenbaum, Helen

1999 "The meaning of anonymity in an information age." *The Information Society*.

Final essay:

Drawing on at least 50% of the class material and one of the following two books by Cory Doctorow, please answer the question: What is a hacker? The essay should be roughly 2500 words long and written for a lay audience. More details will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

Doctorow, Cory

2008 *Little Brother* or

2010 *Makers*