Politics of Piracy Syllabus – Spring 2011

Info 198: The Politics of Piracy
Facilitator: Max Klein [maxklein@berkeley.edu]
Time: Tuesday 5:00 – 6:30
Grading: 2 units, P/NP

Faculty Sponsor: Paul Duguid [duguid@ischool.berkeley.edu]

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1. Introduction:

"Time rich, cash poor," is how radical, download-my-books-for-free author Cory Doctorow describes College Students. We share our every waking thought through social networking for free. We share music online for free. We even scan Harry Potter, proof it and translate it to German with in 24 hours of it's release to share it online for free. Yet because we are seldom apprehended by large corporations we scarcely think about the massive but casual copyright infringement around us.

With Piracy being so commonplace students in Politics of Piracy come together to discuss the current climate of copyright, intellectual property and patent law as both citizens and netizens. Over the course of semester students will learn and debate both in class and through a class blog the historical evolution and rationale of contemporary law and modern complications thereof. We also delve into special topics like: copyleft, filesharing, crowdsourcing, and hacking.

The semester-long final project is to participate with us in the Wikipedia Public Policy Initiative, an official experiment between Wikipedia and Universities to teach students the inner workings of Wikipeida and to help improve the site. We will work in teams to create or expand Wikipedia articles related to Politics of Piracy using knowledge we discuss and learn over the semester.

More information will be provided in class and on the course blog:
http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~mak/blog

2. Assignments:

- Student Current Event Reports:

Each week, a few students will present a current event that is relevant to the course material.

Each student is required to present at least once. You are encouraged to bring extra current events to the attention of the class since this typically enhances discussions.

- Attendance/Participation

Attendance is crucial because this class is discussion-based. Please talk to the facilitator if you need to miss class and you have a valid excuse. Participation includes actively partaking in discussions, asking questions, engaging with current event presenters and guest speakers, and participating in classroom debates.
Attendance/Participation will comprise 25% of your grade.

- Reading Responses:

Students are required to post a multiple sentence reading response each week on the blog http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~mak/blog This assignment is to ensure students keep up on the reading and also encourages some thoughtful analysis that should enrich in-class discussions. Each week two featured comments will be selected and the author will receive a small amount of extra credit.
These reading responses will comprise 20% of your grade.

Midterm Wikipedia Roadmap Assignment: a 200 word proposal posted on your wikipedia user talk page with:

- Specific Wikipedia article(s) to be edited chosen by your group. Ratio of at least 1 article per 2 group members.
- One Primary source as potential Wikipedia article reference that you are bringing to your groups
- Summary or Transcript of communication with an online ambassador or Campus Ambassador.

This assignment will comprise 25% of your grade.

Final Wikipedia Assignment: a contribution to a Wikipedia article having:

1. At least 2 major edits from your Wikipedia account
2. be active on the discussion page of the article.
3. The aggregated edits of your group must be sufficient to raise the quality scale grade by at least one level (I.e. from Stub to Start, Start to C, C to B, B to Good, Good to Featured). If the group creates a stub, it must be raised at least two levels.
Also turn in a 250 word final paper which includes:
1. Summary of contact with your online or campus ambassador(s) during the revision process for additional advice/feedback.

2. A letter grade for each other member of your group.

3. What you learned from working with Wikipedia, both about your experience crowdsourcing, and the subject of your article.

This assignment will comprise 30% of your grade.

3. Schedule:

Week	Topic and reading or assignment due:	Group
1	None – Introduction	
2	**What is Piracy?** - Lessig, Lawrence Chapter 2 (pages 31-48). *Free Culture: The Nature and Future of Creativity*. 2004. Available in print and for free online at www.free-culture.cc	Historical
3	**Fair Use and Copyleft** – "Fair Use FAQ." and "Copyright FAQ" Handout adapted from TeachingCopyright.org, a project of the Electronic Frontier Foundation. http://www.teachingcopyright.org/handout/fair-use-faq- and http://www.teachingcopyright.org/handout/copyright-faq and – Stallman, Richard M. "Misinterpreting Copyright–A Series of Errors." Free Software, Free Society Selected Essays of Richard M. Stallman. Ed. Joshua Gay. New York: Free Software Foundation, 2002. 77-86. Print. http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/misinterpreting-copyright.html	Copyleft
4	**P2P Technology** – Magee, C. Max. "Confessions of a Book Pirate." *The Millions*. http://www.themillions.com/2010/01/confessions-of-a-book-pirate.html Rob. "When Pigs Fly." Demonbaby. http://www.demonbaby.com/blog/2007/10/when-pigs-fly-death-of-oink-birth-of.html	Filesharing
5	**History and evolution of the social internet** – Turner, Fred. "Technology and Culture – Where the Counterculture Met the New Economy: The WELL and the Origins of Virtual Community." *Project MUSE*. http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/technology_and_culture/v046/46.3turner.html	Collaboration
6	**Digital Rights Management** – Docotorow, Cory. "on DRM." Dvorak. http://www.dvorak.org/blog/2009/05/06/video-cory-doctorow-on-drm/ Samuelson, Pam. Toward More Sensible Anti-Circumvention Regulations. UC Berkeley. http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~pam/papers/fincrypt2.pdf	Hacking
7	Midterm Due.	
8	"Grokking the Torrent World" interactive demo, come to class with a laptop if you have one.	Hacking
9	**Collaborative Production** – *TED Talk: Clay Shirky on institutions vs. collaboration*. http://www.ted.com/talks/clay_shirky_on_institutions_versus_collaboration.html	Collaboration

	Cult of the Amateur – reading excerpt of book: Andrew Keen http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2XzkpdR3dg	
10	Limits of Intellectual Property – Liang, Lawrence, and Achal Prabhala. "Reconsidering the Pirate Nation Alternative Law Forum." *Journal Alternative Law Forum*. <http://www.altlawforum.org/intellectual-property/publications/articles-on-the-social-life-of-media-piracy/reconsidering-the-pirate-nation>. "Unintended Consequences: Ten Years under the DMCA." Electronic Frontier Foundation. http://www.eff.org/wp/unintended-consequences-ten-years-under-dmca	Filesharing
11	Open Education Movement	Copyleft
12	Intellectual Property and It's History – Hesse, Carla. "The Rise of Intellectual Property, 700 B.C.-A.D. 2000: An Idea in the Balance," *Daedalus* (Spring 2002). http://www.amacad.org/publications/spring2002/hesse.pdf [pps 26 - 37] and – Posner, Richard. "The Law & Economics of Intellectual Property" *Daedalus*, Vol. 131, No. 2, On Intellectual Property (Spring, 2002). http://www.jstor.org/stable/20027754 [navigate through lib.berkeley.edu > E-Journals > Search: "Daedalus" > Vol 131 No.2]	Historical
13	Final Group Presentations	
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4. Contact:

- Max Klein, facilitator maxklein@berkeley.edu
- Paul Duguid, department sponsor duguid@ischool.berkeley.edu (510) 643-3894 203a South Hall Office Hours: 2:30 – 4:00 on Thursday.

5. Texts:

All required readings and media for this course are available for free online and will be provided either by hyperlink or on bspace. Students are required to complete a weekly reading response described by a given prompt, in which they must identify important arguments and analyze them critically. Opinions are encouraged so long as they are sufficiently justified with evidence from the readings.

6. Instructor Supervision

The instructor will oversee the student facilitator by frequently exchanging email and meeting in person as necessary in office hours or by appointment. Further, the instructor will meet with the facilitator at the beginning and end of the semester.