Course description

In this course, students analyze and critique economic, social and cultural structural mechanisms related to racial and gender disparities in the computing industries, gaining practical and theoretical understanding of the means by which women and people of color negotiate conditions of exclusion or marginalization within computing. The course guides students in understanding their own attitudes and beliefs about themselves, others and computing, and empowers them to recognize and counter common and damaging attitudes and beliefs. As part of learning about the computing industries and exploring their self-identity in relation to computing, students design, develop, and discuss interactive websites that employ web scripting.

Course Objectives

- Analyze and critique portrayals of race and gender with respect to computing
- Recognize and reduce the expression of conscious and unconscious biases
- Contribute to actively anti-bias classrooms, workplaces, professional events, and social spaces
- Have an actionable mental model of Web technology stacks
- Use relevant computing vocabulary and concepts to communicate with computing professionals
- Write simple PHP-based web pages for accessing and acting on user-supplied information from web forms

For SLIS master's students, this course is designed to measure the following SLIS program-level learning outcomes: 1a, 2b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4b, and 4d. For undergraduates using this course to fulfill Ethnic Studies requirements, the learning-outcomes table is at the end of this syllabus. For Digital Studies students, this course fulfills the I and P requirements; the learning-outcomes table is at the end of this syllabus.

If you wish to do your Digital Studies capstone project in this course, you must do it as a poster related to your classwork submitted to the Undergraduate Symposium [https://ugradsymposium.wisc.edu/](https://ugradsymposium.wisc.edu/) (I will be your mentor). If the Symposium does not accept your proposal, you may still do the poster; we will display it publicly at SLIS.

Course Policies

I aim to make this course as accessible as possible to all students. Students seeking accommodations in lecture, test-taking, or other assignments must provide me with a McBurney Center VISA within the first two weeks of class.

For more information on obtaining a McBurney Center VISA, see [http://mcburney.wisc.edu/students/howto.php](http://mcburney.wisc.edu/students/howto.php).

Preferred name/pronouns: It is sometimes the case that a student’s legal name or gender assigned at birth are reported to me on official documents in a form not in keeping with that student’s preferred name or gender expression. Please let me know, as you are comfortable, about your preferences. My pronouns are she/her/hers. UW-Madison also permits students to indicate a preferred name: [https://registrar.wisc.edu/preferred_name.htm](https://registrar.wisc.edu/preferred_name.htm)

To maintain an effective learning environment in the classroom, I insist that:

- All cell phones should be off or on silent mode.
- Disagreement, which is expected and welcome, should be respectful.
All students should follow the Recurse Center’s four Social Rules: [https://www.recurse.com/manual#sub-sec-social-rules](https://www.recurse.com/manual#sub-sec-social-rules) (I am “faculty” for Rule 4 reporting purposes).

**Textbook**
The CODE textbook is *PHP Solutions* by David Powers (3rd edition, Apress 2014). The library currently offers this as an ebook, but if you prefer print or like to highlight/annotate, buying a print copy is recommended. Be sure to get the correct edition.

There is no POWER textbook; all readings are listed in the course schedule later in this syllabus. On print reserve for POWER:

- Margolis et al. *Stuck in the shallow end: Education, race, and computing.* (MIT Press 2008; also available as a library ebook)
- Fletcher, Joyce K. *Disappearing acts: Gender, power, & relational practice at work.* (MIT Press 1999; also available as a library ebook)

**Course software**
You will need the following software on your personal computer/laptop; please download and install it by the second week of class. It is available in the SLIS computer lab also, but other campus computer labs do not have MAMP installed.

- A text editor, also known as a “programmer’s editor” (I recommend TextWrangler for Mac and Notepad++ for Windows, but if you already have one you prefer, by all means continue using it.)

**Contacting me**
READ THE SYLLABUS before asking a question, please; the syllabus may answer it! For private or confidential questions, please send email or come to my office to discuss. Otherwise, please:

- Look for an answer in the syllabus before bringing up your question in class.
- Bring up a question in class or on Learn@UW before contacting me individually; chances are someone else has the same question, or can answer yours.
- Use documentation and a search engine to try to solve technical problems before asking classmates or me for help.
- Do your best to assist others with questions; this class is not a competition.

I am not available weekends; otherwise, I do my level best to answer forum questions and email within two business days.

Should you see dead links (it does happen, usually with no notice), weird due dates, or other syllabus problems, please post them to the “Syllabus problems” forum on Learn@UW as soon as you see them.

**Assignments**

**Grading scale**
All final grades will be based on this scale:

A: 93.5-100, AB: 89.5-93.4, B: 83.5-89.4, BC: 79.5-83.4, C: 73.5-79.4, D: 64-73.4, F: anything below 64.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Final-grade %</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power I: Role model</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Tuesday of Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power II: Structural analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Tuesday of Week 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code I: Geeking out</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Thursday of Week 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code II: Let’s all geek out!</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Thursday of Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power prewriting</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>(by class time Tuesday weeks 2-14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code journal</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(various)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Code and Power assignment: A friendly hackathon</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>Final day of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website functionality</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friendliness of event design</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pitch quality</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual contribution</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</table>

Late major assignments will be penalized one final-grade point per day or fraction of a day late.
Due date table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class dates</th>
<th>Due this week (besides Power pre-writing, due Tuesdays weeks 2-14)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>1/17, 1/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>1/24, 1/26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>1/31, 2/2</td>
<td>Team Compact, choice of Power II career story 1/31</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Choice of research articles to summarize (GRADUATES ONLY) 1/31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>2/7, 2/9</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>2/14, 2/16</td>
<td>Code I 2/16</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>2/21, 2/23</td>
<td>CODE journal 1 2/23</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>4/25, 4/27</td>
<td>CODE journal 3 4/27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>5/2, 5/4</td>
<td>Power II 5/2, Team Code and Power presentation and report 5/4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Power I: Role Model

Introduce a person from an underrepresented-in-tech group who works in computing, someone you have observed or with whom you have worked, and the context in which you know this person. What do you perceive to be the characteristics of this person enabling their success? How are you yourself like and unlike this person? How has this person influenced you and others, and how do you use what you have learned from this person? Record yourself narrating over this slide deck with your favorite screencast software. Use attractive slide design, a compelling script, and engaging verbal delivery to make a video portrait you are proud to present to your colleagues and to the person you are describing. Turn in your screencast/movie file, OR a link to the screencast/movie online.

UNDERGRADUATES: You may make your slides in PowerPoint or Keynote, or use slides.com or presentio.us (Both PowerPoint and Keynote allow you to voice-over slides and export as a movie.)

GRADUATES: Use one of the HTML-based slide systems listed at http://www.impressivewebs.com/html-slidedeck-toolkits/ (but not slides.com, please; I expect you to hand-code your slide HTML). Use a screencasting tool (your choice which) to record your slideshow. Consider adding (podsafe) music!

Power II: Structural power analysis

No later than Tuesday of Week 3, choose one of the first-person career stories available from the Techies Project http://www.techiesproject.com/ or People of Color in Tech http://peopleofcolorintech.com/ to study. (Clear stories from elsewhere with me first, please.) Word to the wise: the richer and more complex the story, the better.

UNDERGRADUATES: Write a three- to five-page paper (not including references) analyzing the person's experience with respect to at least TWO and no more than THREE of the following structural factors: educational opportunities and/or experiences, role models, cultural perceptions of coders/computing, financial constraints, work/life balance, work culture, stereotype threat, impostor syndrome, intersectionality. Excellent papers will quote and cite ideas and arguments from assigned readings to demonstrate understanding and application.
GRADUATES: Write a ten-page paper (not including references) analyzing the person’s experience with respect to as many of the following structural factors as applicable, and any others you notice: educational opportunities and/or experiences, role models, cultural perceptions of coders/computing, financial constraints, work/life balance, work culture, stereotype threat, impostor syndrome, intersectionality, erasure. Excellent papers will quote and cite ideas and arguments from assigned readings and other research to demonstrate understanding and application.

**Code I: Geeking out**

Practically everybody geeks out about something: a creator (broadly construed: authors, artists, crafters, musicians, filmmakers, etc), a piece of art, a sport or athlete, a craft, an organization, a belief, a hobby, whatever! Make a website about someone or something you geek out about, aimed specifically at people who don’t know much about your geekery and don’t themselves geek out about it. Include at minimum an “About” page, a “Get Started” page, a “Learn More” page, a “Jargon” page, and a “Participate” page (the pages do not need to carry these exact titles).

**Code II: Let’s all geek out!**

Find out what other people geek out about! Build a web page with a form that asks questions about users’ own geekery, asks them to upload a picture illustrating their geekery, and then uses PHP to build a new page (Mad-Libs style) attractively contextualizing and displaying the submitted information.

**Team Code and Power assignment: A friendly tech event**

Your team is responsible for running an upcoming one-time community technology-training or technology-building event: a workshop or “hackathon.” Would-be event funders will assess the project on (among its other outcomes) the degree to which it attracts diverse audiences. (Each team may choose its event’s theme and goals. I keep examples of hackathons and similar events on Pinboard https://pinboard.in/u:dsalo/t:hackathons that you can use as inspiration for your own.) Build the event’s website, which should at minimum include:

- location/travel information
- schedule
- local amenities
- event rules/policies
- a PHP-based registration form (n.b. information from the form can be emailed or stored as a flat file; it may also go in a database if a group member has the requisite MySQL knowledge, but this is NOT REQUIRED)
- a PHP-based “contact us” form (same as above)

You may use/modify a theme from CSS Zen Garden to style your site (designs 214 and 215 are responsive) as long as you abide by its Creative Commons license; you may also use/modify a CSS framework-based theme of your choice if you prefer.

Your event and its website should follow best practices in presenting and assuring a safe, welcoming, and inviting environment to everyone interested in participating, regardless of their level of computing knowledge and individual markers of personal identity. (Do not forget about accessibility, please!) Exception: you need not bend over backwards to welcome individuals whose behavior makes the event less safe and welcoming for others.

**Team Compact**


**Website Presentation**

One or more team members will pitch your hackathon and its website, entrepreneur-style, to the class during the final week of class. Pretend that you are speaking to a group of potential (not yet actual!) volunteers and funders whose support (in money, time, and publicity) you need. What will your hackathon accomplish and for whom? How will it reach those goals? Who will attend it, how will they hear about it, and why will they want to come? Why should anyone fund or volunteer for it? You have NO MORE THAN ten (10!) minutes—less is good!—and yes, you WILL be timed, and stopped if you go long!

GRADUATES: Project Report

In addition to the website and the presentation, each team’s graduate students will turn in a collaboratively-edited project report, no more than three pages long (bullet lists encouraged), addressing:

- Techniques used to attract and retain diverse audiences: Explain which aspects of the event are aimed at attracting and retaining diverse audiences, and why they will help. The best reports will draw on and cite ideas, strategies or...
research findings from the readings, in addition to using examples found in case studies, first-person accounts, and best-practice documents.

- Level of effort: Keep an account of which team members did which work on the project. A project to which not every member contributes code-related work (pair programming, testing, tweaking, and bug-fixing absolutely count!) will lose points across the board. Individuals who either do not contribute sufficient work or whose behavior denies teammates opportunities to contribute will also lose points.

**Code journal**

Keep a personal code journal (on paper or in a blog) with a minimum of one entry every five weeks. Each entry should be a reflective assessment of your strengths and weaknesses as a computing student, and how they are changing over time; it should minimally contain:

- An explanation of your personal understanding of the weekly materials covered. Give specific examples of your experiences that will illustrate your point. What have you learned so far?
- Upon reflection, what do you believe are your strengths and weaknesses as a coder and a code learner? (This is not meant to be a question purely about coding mechanics. Attitudes, beliefs, habits, and practices are all fair game.)
- Given the strengths and weaknesses you identified, what specific actions do you plan to take to be a better coder?
- **GRADUATES:** In your professional practice, how can you use what you have learned so far? How can you make these skills and concepts learnable for others?

Special note for students who come in with significant coding savvy: Please reflect also on how you are helping others learn, and how you can do that better in future.

**Power pre-writing**

**UNDERGRADUATES:** Each week (Weeks 1 and 15 excepted) lists questions about the readings and important concepts present in them. You are responsible for answering all questions briefly (1-5 sentences/bullet points per question) as well as defining each concept listed. Post your response to the weekly pre-writing discussion in Canvas; you will be able to see others’ responses after you post your own, and you are encouraged to read them. These are worth one final-grade point apiece except Week 2, which is a practice round.

**GRADUATES:** No later than Week 3 you will choose four research articles assigned over the semester (these are designated in the syllabus with asterisks; n.b. review articles have not been asterisked and are not eligible for this assignment), and for each one, write a summary answering the following questions:

- What is the research question? (N.b. the motivating question is usually not the research question! Also, some papers have more than one research question.)
- Identify what data the author(s) collected, how they were collected, and (where appropriate) how the population of interest was sampled. Based on this, what are the limitations of the data and the results derived from it (according to the authors, adding your own analysis as well)?
- What did the research find?
- How generalizable/transferable would you say the results are?
- What biases may have influenced the development of the study or the interpretation of the results?

Each summary is worth 3% of your final grade each. Post each summary to the pre-writing discussion in Canvas for the week the article is assigned (you may do this as early as you like).

**Course schedule**

Tuesday classes are about POWER; Thursdays about CODE. All POWER assignments are due Tuesdays at start of class; all CODE assignments are due Thursdays at start of class. Each Tuesday class, despite its POWER emphasis, will contain an opportunity at class start to clear up questions on CODE assignments.

Please complete all readings by the class meeting under which they are listed (except, of course, for Week 1).

**Week 1: Is code power? For whom?**


**POWER readings**

Joy. “#FFFFFF diversity.” https://medium.com/this-is-hard/ffffff-diversity-1bd2b3421e8a
Shelley. “Being trans in the tech industry.” http://the-toast.net/2014/02/07/trans-tech-industry/


GRADUATES


CODE readings

Carver. “Things I wish someone had told me when I was learning how to code.” https://medium.com/@cecilycarver/things-i-wish-someone-had-told-me-when-i-was-learning-how-to-code-565fc9dc9329

“How web pages work.” http://computer.howstuffworks.com/web-page.htm (pp 1-5)


Week 2: Who is a coder? Who isn’t?


POWER questions: Who has biases? Are all biases obvious? How can non-obvious, non-overt biases show themselves, and what harm do they do? What are some ways to reduce the negative impact of non-obvious, non-overt biases?

CODE learning objectives: More HTML.

POWER readings


Michelle G. "Picture yourself as a stereotypical male." http://mitadmissions.org/blogs/entry/picture-yourself-as-a-stereotypical-male

CODE readings


Week 3: History of race and gender perceptions in computing

POWER concepts: Erasure. Representation.

POWER questions: How (and how badly) are marginalized people underrepresented in mass media, especially mass media aimed at the ‘geeky’ or ‘nerdy’? How does this turn marginalized people away from technology careers? Who erases marginalized people from the history of technology, and why?

CODE learning objectives: CSS. Responsive design. CSS frameworks.

OPTIONAL FIELD TRIP THIS WEEK: to see the movie Hidden Figures. We’ll discuss in class.
POWER readings
(I have been collecting stories of erasure on Pinboard; find them at https://pinboard.in/u:dsalo/t:500/t:erasure.)
*Anderson and Daniels. “Film dialogue from 2000 screenplays, broken down by gender and age.” http://polygraph.cool/ films/
Oliver. “I will no longer defend my choice to write about black women.” http://www.cosmopolitan.com/entertainment/ movies/a53909/tracy-oliver-essay/
Truong. “Slack sent four black female engineers to accept an award and make a statement about diversity.” http://qz.com/ 613748/slack-sent-four-black-female-engineers-to-accept-an-award-and-make-a-statement-on-diversity/ (Given your other readings this week... how might you rewrite this headline?)

CODE readings
Work through HTML Dog "Beginner CSS tutorial" http://www.htmldog.com/guides/css/beginner/
Knight, “Responsive web design: what it is and how to use it” http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2011/01/guidelines-for-responsive-web-design/ (Don't get lost in the how-to-do-it weeds! Just understand the problems being solved.)

Week 4: Self-concept and computing
POWER concepts: Impostor syndrome.

POWER questions: What are common BELIEFS and BEHAVIORS associated with impostor syndrome? How do people come to believe these things of themselves? How can these beliefs hinder a career in technology?


POWER readings

GRADUATES

CODE readings
Andres-Beck. “Confidence through feedback, or why impostor syndrome is the wrong metaphor.” http:// blog.bethcodes.com/confidence-through-feedback

Week 5: “Meritocracy.” Formal and informal organizational structures.


POWER questions: According to Jo Freeman, how do supposedly “structureless” groups end up with less-than-optimal leadership structures? How can this be prevented? Based on all reading to date (plus your existing knowledge), where might...
one encounter "structureless" groups in technology? What is "the paradox of meritocracy?" How is technology not a meritocracy? How does the belief that success in technology is meritocratic harm marginalized people?

CODE learning objectives: Basic PHP syntax. Troubleshooting PHP.

POWER readings

GRADUATES

CODE readings
Powers ch. 1 (skip "How PHP Has Grown")
Powers ch. 3 “Telling the Server to Process PHP,” “Embedding PHP in a Webpage,” “Ending Commands with a Semicolon,” “Understanding PHP Error Messages”

Week 6: Digital divides and differential access to coding


POWER questions: Which US demographics tend not to have easy access to computers and Internet, and why not? How do digital divides prevent people in marginalized people from learning to code? What would be needed to lower these barriers? Do “digital natives” exist? If so, who is and isn’t one; if not, who is and isn’t believed to be one? How does the widespread belief in “digital natives” damage efforts to include more marginalized people in technology careers?

CODE learning objectives: PHP and HTML forms. PHP variables. PHP strings. Escaping quotes in PHP strings. The echo command.

POWER readings
Tapia, “Afterword.” Stuck in the Shallow End pp. 141-144.
Lace-Evans. “Obstacles to ‘coding while black.” http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-35938633 (Please click through to read the Storify also.)

UNDERGRADUATES: Introduction and key findings only.
GRADUATES

CODE readings
Powers ch. 3 “Using Variables to Represent Changing Values,” “Understanding When to Use Quotes” “Displaying PHP Output” “Adding to an existing string”

Week 7: Race and gender in coding education. Should “everyone” learn to code?

POWER concepts: Preparatory privilege.

POWER questions: What educational experiences turn marginalized people away from technology careers, and why? How does unconscious/implicit bias in educators and counselors contribute? What efforts are underway to increase coding education? Which are working and which not? What do you think: should everyone learn to code? What should everyone learn about computer science and coding?

CODE learning objectives: PHP arrays; processing forms via the $_POST superglobal array.

POWER readings

“Claimed spaces: ‘preparatory privilege’ and high school computer science.” Stuck in the Shallow End ch. 4 pp. 71-95.


GRADUATES


*Seron et al. “Persistence is cultural: Professional socialization and the reproduction of sex segregation.” https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/104002

CODE readings
Powers ch. 3 “Using Arrays to Store Multiple Values,” “PHP’s Built-in Superglobal Arrays”

Week 8: Race and gender in social/professional liminal spaces: conferences and socializing


POWER questions: How do professional conferences turn out to be hostile or even dangerous to marginalized people? What does this mean for who organizes and speaks at conferences? How does that impact the careers of marginalized people? Beyond a code of conduct, what is necessary to make these spaces inclusive and welcoming to everyone?

CODE learning objectives: if/else clauses. Validating user input; making “sticky” forms.

POWER readings
“Missing stair.” http://geekfeminism.wikia.com/wiki/Missing_stair


Honeywell. “What you can do.” http://hypatia.ca/2014/08/05/what-you-can-do/


Evans. “Anonymous talk review is amazing.” http://jvns.ca/blog/2014/05/28/anonymous-talk-submission-equals-amazing/


“The less obvious conference checklist.” https://github.com/erikr/lessobviouschecklist (Skim, but keep this in mind for your Team Code and Power work.)

**CODE readings**

**Powers ch. 3 “Making decisions,” “Making comparisons,” “The truth according to PHP” (just through “Making decisions by comparing two values”)

Powers ch. 5 “Creating a reusable script” “Preserving user input when a form is incomplete”

**Week 9: Race and gender in IT hiring and promotion**

**POWER concepts: leaky pipeline**

**POWER questions:** What difficulties (unrelated to their skills and abilities) do marginalized people face in applying for jobs and getting hired? How do unconscious biases feed these difficulties? What other explanations besides a “leaky pipeline” account for low representation of marginalized populations in STEM careers?

**CODE learning objectives:** PHP arrays. PHP while(), for(), and foreach() loops.

**POWER readings**

Katie. “A tale of two women in science.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28FeA0F6Y0


**GRADUATES**


**CODE readings**

Powers ch. 3 “Creating loops” (pay special attention to the foreach loop!)

**Week 10: Race and gender in “volunteer” IT**

**POWER concepts:** Open-source software. Free software.

**POWER questions:** How can “volunteer” IT experiences such as developing open-source software or editing Wikipedia translate into career opportunities? How does this disadvantage some marginalized people? How does the “meritocracy” concept operate in many open-source software communities? What community characteristics drive marginalized people out of “volunteer” IT, and how can this be mitigated?

**CODE learning objectives:** None for this week.

**POWER readings**
Week 11: Race and gender in IT workplaces

**POWER concepts:** Glass ceiling, glass elevator, glass cliff, double bind. Emotional labor.

**POWER questions:** How does unconscious bias create gendered and racialized expectations regarding workplace behavior/demeanor? What does this mean for leaders from marginalized populations? How is competition gendered, and how might that affect workplace behavior? What characteristics of IT workplaces drive marginalized people out? How can workplaces alter these characteristics?

**CODE learning objectives:** PHP includes, PHP templates. Dropdowns in forms.

**POWER readings**


Disappearing Acts, chapters 5 and 6.


Alexander. “The tech industry wants to use women’s voices—they just won’t listen to them.” https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/mar/28/tay-bot-microsoft-ai-women-siri-her-ex-machina (POWER question: Why do you think I included this reading this week?)


**CODE readings**

Powers ch. 4 “Introducing the PHP include commands” “Where PHP looks for include files”

Week 12: Race and gender in IT entrepreneurship

**POWER questions:** What does it take to start a business? What additional barriers stand between marginalized people and entrepreneurship?

**CODE learning objectives:** Uploading files. Writing to files on the server.

**POWER readings**


Lacy. “Does a VC’s unconscious hesitation to fund women start at home?” https://pando.com/2016/02/11/does-vcs-unconscious-reticence-fund-women-start-home/706dc23f60a62867d6b6c68ee81eadd6f67a348/

Nadav. “VCs—don’t compare me to your wife, just don’t.” https://byrslf.co/vcs-don-t-compare-me-to-your-wife-just-don-t-9dc2c8c1ac93

“How this young, female, and Latina investor broke into a middle-aged, male, and white industry.” http://hunterwalk.com/2015/03/20/how-this-young-female-and-latina-investor-broke-into-a-middle-aged-male-and-white-industry/


CODE readings
Powers ch. 6 “How PHP handles file uploads,” “Adding a file upload field to a form,” “Understanding the $_FILES array,” “Establishing an upload folder,” “Moving the temporary file to the upload folder”

Powers ch. 7 “Opening and closing files for read/write operations” (stop at “Moving the internal pointer”)

Week 13: Race and gender in social-media and other online settings

POWER questions: How does marginalization in online contexts play out in the online and offline lives of marginalized people? What can social media and online games do to reduce abuse?

CODE learning objectives: Sending email via PHP

POWER readings
Koul. "There’s no such thing as digital-only torment.” https://www.buzzfeed.com/ssaachikoul/theres-no-such-thing-as-virtual-torment (content warning: quoted online abuse, sexual assault)

Sullivan. “Don’t feed the trolls.” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulNSlES1Fds


*Purohit et al. “Gender-based violence in 140 characters or fewer: a #BigData case study of Twitter.” http://journals.uic.edu/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/6148 (content warning: quoted online abuse)


Hill. “How Nextdoor reduced racist posts by 75%.” http://fusion.net/story/340171/how-nextdoor-reduced-racial-profiling/

UNDERGRADUATES:

GRADUATES:

*Dolce,

*Vasilescu,

*Capiluppi

*Purohit

*Powers

*Vasilescu

*Capiluppi

*Purohit

CODE readings
Powers ch. 5 “Sending email”
**Week 14: Building more diverse IT cultures: ally work**

*POWER questions:* List any ally behaviors or “ally smells” you don’t understand (it’s fine! nobody’s perfect! and this class is absolutely a “101 space”). What will you personally do differently from now on to increase inclusivity in technology?

*CODE learning objectives:* None for this week

**POWER readings**

Take Pagano’s “Bad Ally Quiz” http://juliepagano.com/blog/2014/02/26/bad-ally-quiz/ before you continue with the readings. (Keep your score to yourself; this is not a contest. Everyone starts somewhere, and my own score is not zero.) Pagano. “So you want to be an ally.” http://juliepagano.com/blog/2014/05/10/so-you-want-to-be-an-ally/


**GRADUATES:**


**Week 15: Where do we go from here?**

Hackathon group presentations.

**SLIS learning outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLIS Goals</th>
<th>640 Objectives</th>
<th>640 Measurable Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a. Students apply key concepts with respect to the relationship between</td>
<td>Analyze and critique portrayals of race and gender with respect to computing</td>
<td>All POWER assignments test this outcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power, knowledge, and information.</td>
<td>Recognize and reduce the expression of conscious and unconscious biases</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Contribute to actively anti-bias classrooms, workplaces, professional events, and social spaces</td>
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<tr>
<td>3c. Students analyze information needs of diverse individuals and</td>
<td>Analyze and critique portrayals of race and gender with respect to computing</td>
<td>Event website must address information needs of diverse attendee communities; pitch must address diverse funder/volunteer communities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>communities.</td>
<td>Recognize and reduce the expression of conscious and unconscious biases</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Contribute to actively anti-bias classrooms, workplaces, professional events, and social spaces</td>
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<tr>
<td>3d. Students understand and use appropriate information technologies.</td>
<td>Have an actionable mental model of Web technology stacks Use relevant computing vocabulary and concepts to communicate with computing professionals Write simple PHP-based web pages for accessing and acting on user-supplied information from web forms</td>
<td>All CODE assignments test this outcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4a. Students evaluate, problem solve, and think critically, both individually and in teams.</td>
<td>Use relevant computing vocabulary and concepts to communicate with computing professionals Write simple PHP-based web pages for accessing and acting on user-supplied information from web forms</td>
<td>All assignments in this course require critical thinking and problem solving.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4b. Students demonstrate good oral and written communication skills.</td>
<td>Use relevant computing vocabulary and concepts to communicate with computing professionals</td>
<td>All POWER assignments and the Friendly Event assignment test oral and written communication skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4d. Students demonstrate innovation and skills necessary for leadership.</td>
<td>Recognize and reduce the expression of conscious and unconscious biases Contribute to actively anti-bias classrooms, workplaces, professional events, and social spaces</td>
<td>Friendly Event assignment designed to improve student leadership skills.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ethnic Studies learning outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Course Material that Addresses LO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Awareness of History's Impact on the Present:</strong> how certain histories have been valued and devalued, and how these differences have promulgated disparities in contemporary American society.</td>
<td>Readings and discussion: primarily Weeks 3 and 7, also Weeks 8-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ability to Recognize and Question Assumptions:</strong> healthy skepticism towards knowledge claims, whether in the form of media, political, or popular representations, primarily as these relate to race and ethnicity</td>
<td>Assignment: Power 2 Readings and discussion: primarily Weeks 1-2, but all Power Pre-Writing assignments involve this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Consciousness of Self and Other:</strong> opportunity to think about identity issues, including their own identity, as well as the connections they might have to people &quot;outside&quot; their focused social circle.</td>
<td>Assignments: Power 1, Power Pre-Writing Readings and discussion: primarily Weeks 7 and 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effective Participation in a Multicultural Society:</strong> relevant to students’ &quot;lives outside the classroom&quot;, and pursuing the objectives above should not only lead to student behavioral change, but to action in the real world</td>
<td>Assignments: A Friendly Event, Power Pre-Writing</td>
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</table>
Digital Studies Learning Outcomes:

For Digital Studies students, this course fulfills the I and P requirements, and is designed to develop masteries related to the following program learning objectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital Studies Program Learning Objective</th>
<th>Course Material that Addresses LO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To understand key theories and concepts related to digital studies and the historical context surrounding the creation of digital technologies</td>
<td>Power 2 paper, Power Pre-Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To gain familiarity with methods, concepts and tools needed to research and evaluate information related to digital studies</td>
<td>Power Pre-Writing, Power 2 paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To think critically about how digital technologies work and their impact on society</td>
<td>Power 1, Power 2 paper, Power Pre-Writing, Code 1, Code 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be able to create strategic communication content and self-expression using digital tools</td>
<td>A Friendly Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To understand the professional and ethical principles related to the field of digital studies</td>
<td>Power Pre-Writing, A Friendly Event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>