

Baylor in Great Britain 2011

MIS 4v98

Our Digital World

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DRAFT SYLLABUS
Contact me with any
questions or comments!

Professor

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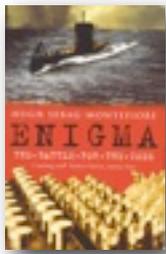
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Course Web Site: <http://mis2.baylor.edu/bgb/4v98>

Objectives

In this upper division business readings course we will explore the impact of technology on the modern world via reading and discussion of the three books listed below.

Course Reading



[Amazon.com](#)

[Kindle](#)

Audible (No)

iBook (No)

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Enigma: Battle for the Code

[...] [T]he story itself, describing the breaking of the German naval code during World War II, is both engrossing and exciting. Much of the information presented here is based on recently declassified documents. The parade of characters includes ordinary seamen, double agents, and technical experts who manage to decipher what seems indecipherable, even to some of their peers. The result is a real-life thriller that should entice historians, fans of the spy genre, and ordinary readers who appreciate a tense, dramatic, and superbly told story. (Jay Freeman © American Library Association).



[Amazon.com](#)

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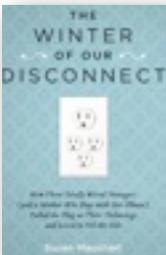
[iTunes \(Audible\)](#)

iBook (No)

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1984

Among the seminal texts of the 20th century, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a rare work that grows more haunting as its futuristic purgatory becomes more real. Published in 1949, the book offers political satirist George Orwell's nightmare vision of a totalitarian, bureaucratic world and one poor stiff's attempt to find individuality. The brilliance of the novel is Orwell's prescience of modern life--the ubiquity of television, the distortion of the language--and his ability to construct such a thorough version of hell. Required reading for students since it was published, it ranks among the most terrifying novels ever written. (Amazon.com Review)



[Amazon.com](#)

[Kindle](#)

Audible (No)

[iBook](#)

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The Winter of our Disconnect

Maushart (*The Mask of Motherhood*) embarked with her three teenagers on a six-month screen blackout (no cellphones, iPods, PCs, laptops, game stations, or television) to discover if the technology intended to stimulate and keep us virtually more connected was, as she suspected, making us actually more disconnected and distracted. [...] Funny and poignant precisely when it is not trying to be, this book vacillates between diary entries (written longhand) and deeply researched reportage, which brings needed balance to the subject of new media, often touted as either the answer to all of our problems or the accelerant of societal doom [...] (From Publishers Weekly)

Course Meetings (10am on Wednesdays)

July 20th: Discuss "Enigma" by Hugh Sebag-Montefiore

July 27th: Discuss "1984" by George Orwell

August 3rd: Discuss "The Winter of our Disconnect" by Susan Maushart

Final Exam: TBA

Grading

Grades are based on a 100 point system, with each of the 3 books having 30 points available and a final 10 points to be earned via participation in field trips. Given that we only have 3 regular class meetings, your timely attendance is required at each. Additional details and handouts will be posted on the course web site. Field trips to the Blechley Park [National Codes Center](#) and [National Museum of Computing](#) are planned.