

# Digital Divide and Digital Opportunity

Tuesdays 9:00 pm – 12:00 pm

Course: Dept. of Education and Learning Technology  
(Elective three credit hours)  
Classroom: N314  
Office hours: By appointment

Instructor: Dr. Chun-Min (Arthur) Wang  
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## Course Description:

The course aims to introduce related theories about the digital divide. Through the reconstruction of social phenomena, the course intends to improve students' understanding of the impact of the digital divide. Students will explore the issue more deeply by interviewing specific figures or organizations. By analyzing these cases and proposing solutions, students are expected to combine theories and practice, create digital opportunities to improve the situation, and nurture their sensitivities to issues related to the digital divide.

## Course Objectives:

1. Understand the theories and research related to the digital divide.
2. Realize the impacts of the digital divide on society.
3. Design and develop solutions to improve the situation of the digital divide in a specific case.

## Class Activities :

Lectures, group collaboration, case studies, synchronous online learning, and literature discussion.

## Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic	Note
1	02.20	Course Introduction	
2	02.27	Meaning of the digital divide	
3	03.05	Technology and the Society	
4	03.12	Digital natives vs. Digital Immigrants	
5	03.19	What is the Internet doing to our brains?	
6	03.26	Theories of the digital divide	
7	04.02	Observation report I	*Assignment 1 due
8	04.09	Motivation and attitude	
9	04.16	Usage inequality	
10	04.23	Digital opportunities	* Confirm Assignment 2 topic
11	04.30	Digital skills	
12	05.07	Digital divide research	* Confirm the final project topic
13	05.14	Issue discussion I	* Assignment 2 due
14	05.21	Issue discussion II	
15	05.28	Proposal Implementation	
16	06.04	Project presentation	* Final project due

## Course Evaluation :

1. **In-class performance:** 20 %  
Attendance rate, in-class discussion, and in-class activities.

2. **Assignment 1: Observation report** (15 %)  
Students must identify three examples of the digital divide in their daily lives. Explain why these examples occur, estimate how serious the situations are, and propose potential solutions to these cases.
3. **Assignment 2: Issue discussion** (30%)  
Select one issue related to the course and lead the conversation after a 15-minute presentation.
4. **Final Report:** 35%  
Team or individual. Each group will interview an organization, institution, or individual working on closing the digital divide. Through questioning and analyzing the data collected, each group is required to introduce the specific object and propose a potential plan to improve the current situation of the selected object.

- \* Further information about the assignments will be provided in the class.
- \* Special needs and learning difficulties should consult with the instructor.
- \* No extra points will be given to the students who complete the assignments in English.
- \* **The assignments can incorporate AIGC (AI generates content) but should clearly explain how and which parts of the assignments adopted AI.**

#### References :

- Jan Van Dijk (2020). *The digital divide*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Bauerlein, M (2011). *The digital divide: Arguments for and against Facebook, Google, Texting, and the age of social networking*. New York: TarcherPerigee.
- Kim, A. (2015). *Digital divides: The new challenges and opportunities of e-inclusion*. New York: Routledge.
- Warschauer, M. (2004). *Technology and social inclusion: Rethinking the digital divide*. MA: MIT Press.

Other articles will be provided in the class.