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## UTSC- NMED20H3 Theory and Practice of New Media, Fall 2008

Course Lecturer: Gita Hashemi

Report 1 – Module Response – 10% – Due: Wednesday, October 8, by 5 pm

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A Module Response is a brief (500-word) critical examination of the themes, theories and concepts central to the module and the material we have engaged with during its course. The intention of this assignment is to provide you with an opportunity to review the material you have already read and discussed in class, and to reflect upon them retrospectively. This is the place where you should take a step back, look at the large picture, make connections, ask questions and critique what you have encountered. You should try to **address substantially at least 2 of the articles, each from a different week**. By all means, feel free to cover more of them. To complete a Module Response, you need to perform 3 critical tasks: **describe**, **interpret** and **critique**.

**Describe** the main points of the articles in a few sentences each. This requires an understanding of the main themes and arguments in each reading. For each article, ask questions such as:

- What are the author's key theme(s) and main argument(s)?
- What is the context (historical, cultural, academic) of the article?

**Interpret** the connections that exist among the module's readings and how they fit together. To do this, you need to have read all of the material and attended discussions and draw on these for your own interpretation. Ask yourself questions such as:

- How are the themes and/or arguments that I have identified related to each other and to topics discussed in class?
- How do these relate to the critical study of media in general and "new media" specifically?

**Critique** the material. Note that while *criticism* may be commonly understood as *finding faults*, in academic discourse *critique* additionally means asking questions toward further explorations. In other words, while you may certainly find faults and shortcomings in the arguments and methodologies of what you are critiquing, this is not the sole focus. Ask questions such as:

- What is the significance of what has been covered in the material and discussions in the module?
- What do I agree or disagree with in the concepts, arguments and/or methodologies used in the material?
- Why do I agree or disagree with these?
- What other important points/issues could have been addressed by the authors?
- How did this material affect the way I think about my own work as a student of "new media"?
- What inspirations can I take from this module to help me develop my senior "new media" project?

You do not have to answer every question for every reading, but you should try a fair number of them. You are particularly encouraged – close to required – to also respond to the last 2 questions. You do not need to follow the order listed above. Again, take a step back and look at the larger picture; if you have a good understanding of the readings individually and have been participating in class discussions, it will not be difficult to connect the dots and draw this broader perspective.

### Technical Requirements

Your response must be written in **formal academic English**, have an **original title** and be **500 words long**. **Include a word count** at the end of your text (use the function in Word). Responses that are shorter than the required length will be graded accordingly. Yes, **the quality of writing, grammar, spelling and structure matter**. **Post your response on the Course Commons** on course website in the forum called Module 1 Response. Responses are **due on Wednesday, October 8, by 5 pm**. (This does not mean you have license to skip class:) Responses posted after this time will be subject to late penalty as per course outline. No last minute technical assistance will be available. It is your responsibility to give yourself enough time to deal with any un-anticipated problems.