**WSCP 81601, Feminism & Technology**

**Prof. Kathlene McDonald**

This seminar on gender, new media, and technology will examine the relationship between digital technology, democracy, and movement building. The course is designed to provide an overview of contemporary, cutting-edge theorizing about gender, race, technology, and power to construct a framework for examining how feminists use social media to engage in activism around issues such as health, body image, labor, education, poverty, and human rights. We will consider the implications and possibilities of new digital tools and methods for grassroots organizing and coalitional politics and will problematize issues of community-building, access, identity, and representation. Further, we will look at the multiple ways that individuals and groups use new media to represent gender, racial, ethnic and/or sexual identities. And finally, we will consider how digital mapping and archiving can contribute to the building of an online feminist scholarly community.

The format of this class will be hybrid, which means that it will include both face-to-face and online sessions and will engage with traditional and digital scholarship. Projects will involve analyzing and creating digital media and will feature opportunities for collaborative writing and interpretation, both within the course itself and across institutions.

The class is a nodal course within the first Distributed Online Collaborative Course (DOCC), “Dialogues on Feminism and Technology,” taught at more than fifteen institutions and organized collectively by FemTechNet. In this model, a feminist rethinking of the MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), the idea is to create a shared learning experience across multiple campuses through collaborative teaching and learning. Students will have the opportunity to engage in intellectual exchange with a global network of scholars who are committed to creating an online space that is truer to feminist theorizing and process. All DOCC activities are coordinated through the FemTechNet Commons: <http://femtechnet.newschool.edu/>