

Jesuit International Summer Seminar on Religion in the Virtual Age
Gonzaga University
July 2- 27, 2018

Tentative Schedule (classes meet 9:00-12:00 weekdays)

Week one: Philosophical Reflections on the Virtual Age

Monday July 2: Introduction;

- Models for understanding technology's relationship to society

Tuesday July 3: Communication technology's influence on culture and identity

- Mimetic and oral culture
- Literate culture

Wednesday: Virtual culture

- Print and Electronic mass media
- online communication: texts vs hypertexts

Thursday: extended mind and automation

- The virtual self as a networked self, threats to meaning and identity
- Distributed intelligence: Embodied, embedded and extended

Friday: Virtual ontology

- Distributed agency: from networked agency to automation and the internet of things
- life as information flow, gene editing; Reality as networked intelligence

Week Two: Theological Reflections on the Virtual Age

Monday: Religion as refuge:

- Heidegger/Borgmann: instrumental devices vs practices and things
- Spodaro's concerns with Virtual Sacraments

Tuesday: Virtual technologies as foils for religious thought

- Introduction to Transhumanism
- Radical life extension

Wednesday: Transcendence: technological and religious.

- Artificial intelligence and the singularity
- The religious virtues of finitude.

Thursday: Virtual Theology

- Our Reality as God's Virtual Reality
- Avatar Christology
- Mystical Incandescence

Friday: off

Saturday: Panel on spirituality and the high tech industry

- Panel discussion with John Hemminson and Bob McCambridge, venture capitalists with experience in investing in internet startups

Week Three: Workshop on Designing Religion Online

Monday: Ricky Manalo: religious ritual online

- Research topics
- Ricky Manalo: liturgical music and ritual in virtual and hybrid contexts.

Tuesday: evangelizing digital natives

- Luke: Gonzaga University's ministry to digital natives
- Rossman: the importance of virtual evangelization

Wednesday: virtual evangelization contd.

- Martinez: producing virtual rituals on Youtube
- Victoriano: virtual pastoral initiatives: Three case studies from the Dominican Republic

Thursday: virtual evangelization contd.

- Rossman: Lessons Learned from the Jesuit Post
- Martinez: Magesterial Teachings on communication technologies from the 20's to the present
- Afternoon session: trying out the Oculus Go

Friday

- Rossman: Lessons Learned From the Jesuit Post (contd)
- Martinez: Christian review of a strong rap video and reactions
- Clancy: Inter-religious dialogue as a model for evangelizing a secular and pluralistic digital culture.

Week four: Student presentations

Monday:

- Patrick: [Self@Virtual.Reality](#):
- Laura Schmidt: Online counselling

Tuesday:

- Frankly: Could a Non-Touchable Virtual World Liberate Untouchables In Ours?
- Manoj: Leadership in a VUCA World (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous)

Wednesday:

- Paul: Cyberspace and ~~Personal~~ Identity Negotiation in an African Context
- Caswell: The Power of Social Media in Enabling the Self to Become Authentic

Thursday:

- Mel: Hey Google! Hi Alexa! Ethical Issues Raised By Home AI's
- Tom: Using Art and Technology for Mission

Friday:

- Lessons learned and assessment of the seminar