

Reading Questions – Weeks 1 - 3

A) Turner, 2006, *From Counterculture to Cyberculture*

I. Introduction

1. What two distinct cultures were involved in early internet development?
2. How would you characterize each culture?
3. What name did Turner use to identify the counterculturalists?
4. Who was the hub (“network entrepreneur”) of the connections between these two cultures?
5. What media tools did Brand use to convey these connections?
6. What explains the coming together of these contradictory cultures?

II. Chapter 1

1. Who was Mario Savio and what values did he represent?
2. Who was John Perry Barlow and what values did *he* represent?
3. From whom did the idea that the material, and even human, world can be imagined as an information (computer) system come?
4. What phrase does Turner use to describe the above idea?
5. In what historical context (and from what scientists) did the computational metaphor derive?
6. How did the MIT Rad Lab serve as an example of “openness” in the closed world of military-industrial science?
7. Who was Norbert Wiener and for what central idea is he well-known?

III. Chapter 2

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**B) Castells, 2001, *The Internet Galaxy***

**I. Chapter 1**

1. Out of what military research agency did the Internet develop in the late 1960s?
2. Why was the technology known as “packet switching” revolutionary?
3. What four colleges represented the first nodes of the Internet, connected in 1969?
4. What were some of the early (1970s-1980s) networks that moved information across the United States and, eventually, the world?
5. What groundbreaking invention turned the public on to the Internet in 1991?
6. What were the most common ways the early internet used?
7. When did the uneasy collaboration between the two cultures of military and academic researchers break apart (with the separation of ARPA-INTERNET from MILNET and NSFNET)?
8. What social values described the Internet and the
9. How did users become key producers of what the Internet came to be a technology that grew with unprecedented speed and volume?
10. When and how was the governance of the Internet organized
11. What does Castells mean in the last sentence when he says “The Internet is, above all else, a cultural creation”?

**II. Chapter 2**

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**C) Weinberger, *Small Pieces Loosely Joined***

**I. Intro**

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**II. Chapter 1**

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**D) Turkle, *Life on the Screen*, Chp 10 Identity Crisis**

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**E) Videos:**

**I. Graham, *How social media makes us unsocial* (TedX video)**

1.

2.

**II. Business Insider, *How Social Media Is Rewiring Our Brains***

1.

**F) Meadows, *I, Avatar***

**I. What It Is, Pts 1-4**

1.

2.

**II. Diving In**

1.

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**III. Roles and Rules**

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**IV. Masks and Archetypes**

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**G) Baldwin, *What Can a Second Life Teach Me about Me?: Writing Our Identity in Second Life***

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