

# **Electronic Civil Disobedience and Hacktivism: Theory and Practice**

**VIS149**

**Winter 2015**

**Room: VAF 228**

**Tuesday 12:30pm - 3:20 p.m**

**Professor: Ricardo Dominguez**

**Email: rrdominguez@ucsd.edu**

**Office Hours: Monday 11pm to Noon (VAF 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl. Studio 551)**

## **Class Description:**

**Electronic Civil Disobedience (ECD) as a theory will be compared with the multiple forms of ECD practice that have emerged since the early 1990's. We will investigate how ECD intersects with earlier definitions of civil disobedience (CD) by Henry David Thoreau to Ghandi. The class will also examine the trajectories of tactical media, digital zapatismo, hacktivism, cyberwar and social netwar that arose at the same time as ECD. Core questions for the class will be: is ECD a useful tactic for contemporary activism and if so how and when; and, to what degree have post 9/11 politics effected the practice of ECD. What new tactics and strategies have emerged with social networking and distributed video models. The readings and examples of ECD practice will only be on-line. Among the E-books on ECD that we will read sections from: The Electronic Disturbance and Electronic Civil Disobedience by Critical Art Ensemble; also, Hackitivism: network\_art\_activism by Electronic Disturbance Theater; and The Zapatista Social Netwar in Mexico by David Ronfeldt and John Arquilla, as well as current hacktivist practices by Anonymous. The class will also explore and develop an ECD performance in order to access and evaluate the arcs between theory and practice.**

## **Grading Policies**

### **Final Grade Evaluation:**

**25% Assignments: A Notebook Diary and One Midterm - 5 page essay (MLA Style).**

### **25% Attendance and Participation**

**25% The class will also learn how an ECD performance functions by learning the code, staging the code by deciding as a group what issue might be the focus of the ECD performance and then doing the the gesture in order to better understand the process, practice and outcomes of ECD.**

**25% Final Exam – 10 page essay (MLA Style) or an Activist Action (it can be conceptual)**

### **Attendance:**

**You will be expected to attend every class. If you have more than 2 unexcused absences, your final grade will drop 1/2 a letter for every additional unexcused absence. Two unexcused lateness will be considered an absence.**

**NEW LINKS - ON CD, ECD ACTIONS OR ANALYSIS DURING OUR CLASS WILL APPEAR HERE:**

**January 5th - Introduction**

**Watch first part of: Ghandi**

**Watch: Herbert's Hippopotamus: Marcuse and Revolution in Paradise:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbzhmMDFcFQ>**

**January 12th - Civil Disobedience (CD)**

**READ:**

**Henry David Thoreau - 1849**

**Civil Disobedience**

**<http://eserver.org/thoreau/civil.html>**

**Mark Shepard - 1990**

**Civil Disobedience, Nonviolence, and Satyagraha in the Real World**

**<http://www.markshep.com/nonviolence/Myths.html>**

**January 19th - Teleporting CD to ECD - [Electronic Disturbance](#)**

**Critical Art Ensemble - 1994**

**Electronic Disturbance (Read Chapter 2 and 4)**

**<http://www.critical-art.net/books/ted/index.html>**

**Electronic Civil Disobedience (Read Chapter 1 and 2)**

**<http://www.critical-art.net/books/ecd/>**

**January 26th – NO CLASS - [Digital Zapatistas](#)**

**Dr. Harry Cleaver - February, 1994**

## **The Chiapas Uprising and the Future of Class Struggle**

<http://www.eco.utexas.edu/facstaff/Cleaver/chiapasuprising.html>

**Jason Wehling - March, 1995**

## **Netwars and Activists: Power on the Internet**

<http://www.spunk.org/library/comms/sp001518/Netwars.html>

## **Sites to Visit:**

## **Chase Manhattan Memo: Chase Manhattan Bank Urges Zapatista Wipe-Out**

[EZLN \(Zapatistas On-Line\)](http://enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx/)

<http://enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx/>

<http://chiapas.indymedia.org>

## **February 2nd - Electronic Civil Disobedience**

## **Critical Art Ensemble - 1995**

## **Electronic Civil Disobedience (Chapter 1 and 2).**

<http://www.critical-art.net/books/ecd/index.html>

## **February 9th - Digital Zapatistas 2**

## **Dr. Harry Cleaver - 1998**

## **A Contribution to the Discussion of Electronic Civil Disobedience**

<http://www.thing.net/~rdom/ecd/harrycontrib.html>

**Social Netwar by The Rand Corp. (Chapter 1 and 2)**

**[https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monograph\\_reports/1998/MR994.pdf](https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monograph_reports/1998/MR994.pdf).**

**February 16th - Social Netwar**

**Dr. Dorothy E. Denning - 1999**

**Activism, Hacktivism, and Cyberterrorism**

**<http://www.iwar.org.uk/cyberterror/resources/denning.htm>**

**Dr. Jill Lane - 2000**

**Digital Zapatistas**

**<http://www.thing.net/~rdom/ucsd/DigitalZapatistas.pdf>**

**Feb. 23rd - Hacktivism**

**[Mapping ECD 2001](#)**

**[Steal This Modem](#)**

**A Transparent and Civil Act of Disobedience**

**<http://post.thing.net/node/304>**

**High Court Says Online Demonstration is Not Force**  
<http://post.thing.net/node/1370>

**March 1st - The Coming Swarm Part One**

<http://www.thing.net/~rdom/ucsd/ComingSwarm.pdf>

**March 8th - The Coming Swarm Part Two**

<http://www.thing.net/~rdom/ucsd/ComingSwarm.pdf>

**FINAL PAPER or Activist Action DUE - March 16th**

**MORE READINGS:**

[Trespassory Art: A Legal Study](#) - **Randall Bezanson and Andrew Finkelman**

[Hacktivism and the Future of Political Participation](#) - **Alexandra Whitney Samuel**

[Virtual Non-Violence](#) - **Andrew Calabrese**

[Resistance Studies Network](#)

['Cyber terrorists'](#)

## **Toronto "hactivists" benefit from grant**

### **More Suggested Books:**

**William Bogard, The Simulation of Surveillance (1996)**

**Scott Bukatman, Terminal Identity (1993)**

**Dorothy E. Denning, Information Warfare and Security (1999)**

**Chris Hables Gray, Postmodern War (1997)**

**Tim Jordan, Activism!: Hacktivism and the Future of Society (2002)**

**Martha Mccaughey, Cyberactivism (2003)**

**Graham Meikle, Future Active (2002)**

**Nettime.org, Read Me! Read Me! Read Me! (1999)**

**Michael Perelman, Class Warfare In The Information Age (1998)**

**Benjamin Shepard, from ACT UP to the WTO (2002)**

**Winn Schwartua, Cybershock (2000)**

**Adam Wishart and Regula Bochslar, Leaving Reality Behind (2002)**

---

**Online Simulations and Performance: Interview with Ricardo Dominguez**

**<http://www.thing.net/~rdom/ucsd/onlinesimulations.pdf>**

## **The Journal of Aesthetics and Protest**

<http://www.journalofaestheticsandprotest.org/about/index.html>

## **Tactical Media Reader**

[http://www.n5m.org/n5m4/dox/n5m\\_reader.pdf](http://www.n5m.org/n5m4/dox/n5m_reader.pdf)

## **Emergence of Noopolitik**

<http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1033/>

## **More Suggested Essays**

**Stefan Wray - 1999**

**World Wide Web of Hacktivism**

<http://switch.sjsu.edu/web/v4n2/stefan/index.html>

**Dr. Jon McKenzie - 1999**

**!nt3rh4ckt!v!ty**

<http://www.thing.net/~rdom/nyu/interhacktivity.doc>

**the electrohippies collective occasional paper no.1 - February, 2000**

**Client-side Distributed Denial-of-Service**



<http://www.fraw.org.uk/hippies/papers/op1.html>

**Hacktivists Stage Virtual Sit-In at WEF Web site**

<http://www.alternet.org/story/12374>

**Targeting Diebold with Electronic Civil Disobedience**

<http://www.why-war.com/features/2003/10/diebold.html>

**Net Activism Tools**

<http://backspace.com/action>