

An Overview of Digital Tribes

Week→	1	2	3	4
Topics	Introduction	Major Tools	Emerging Tools	Recreational/ Social Online Worlds
Activities	• Moodle registration • Forum participation: introduction • Blog setup • Twitter setup • Facebook setup	• Other media setup • Comparison of functions, goals, use, and value • Forming course PLN • Organizing initial comparisons and observations in a chart	• Discovery sharing • Community selection • New network formation • Online participation • Preparing to demonstrate the social media tool of choice	• Observations • Classification of activities • Interviews • Demonstrating one's choice online
Assessments		Social Media Survey¹		Demonstration²

5	6	7	8
Education Innovations	Online Professional Identity	Emerging Practices	Emerging Networks and Relationships
• Collecting new skills • Peer learning • Classification of objects	• Classification of participants • Observing social ranking • Writing a research study on one's media choice.	• Observing innovations • Observing censure • Observing recovery	• Classifying innovations, censure, and recovery • Discerning purposes •
		Research Study³	

9	10	11	12	13
Communities of Practice	The Online Life	Online Openness	Online Security	New Frontiers
• Observing real-world effects of online participation • Classifying relationships • Preparing an online presentation of group findings	• Observing online effects of real-world events • Classifying values • Observing group ties	• Defining privacy and public action • Defining relationships online	• Securing an individual online 'place'. • Protecting one's own. • Writing a proposal for further study	• Considering recent findings • Analyzing risks • Assessing uses and values • Choosing new directions
	Team Presentation⁴			Proposal⁵ Journal⁶

¹ The social media survey is a comparison chart showing several different tools and their features, uses, and other characteristics, along with a description of the community forming around the use of each tool and how each community is distinct.

² In the demonstrations, students show the course community the tool they have chosen to study during the course and help us all to understand how people participate and the range of activities and artefacts associated with the tool.

³ In the research study, students will demonstrate their initial level of understanding of the community, what people participate and how, what objects are associated with the community (both as brought into the community or made as a result of interactions or activities in the community), activities done (both asynchronous and synchronous), and how such communities might be educational.

⁴ In the team presentation, groups build upon their individual research studies to present a more complete picture of the operation and function of social media communities. Teams are made up of participants who have studied a given social media community during the course.

⁵ In the final proposal, each participant in the course will propose a new study to be completed after the course is concluded. The proposed study should build upon work done during the course, either by choosing a new media community to study in the same way or by choosing methods of study used by others in the course for further study of the community chosen for the course.

⁶ The final journal will be an assessment of the student's individual reflections during the course. Assessment will be based upon the depth of reflection, as well as the length and regularity of posts and the care taken in writing and editing for professionalism and clarity.