SYLLABUS IGME 582 – Humanitarian Free and Open Source Software

Online M,W,F 9:00-9:50 EST   Professor Stephen Jacobs
Office Hours by appointment + FOSS Hours 5-6 on Thursday   sj@mail.rit.edu
Course TA: Kent Reese

About This Course:
This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of Open Software communities and contributions to a large extent, and to how the related areas of Open Hardware, Open Science, Open Data, etc. It's also a course on the intersection of humanitarian work and Open technology work. In this course, we take a broad view of what "humanitarian" means and include civic and educational work beyond aid sector work.

The nature of FOSS work has been evolving since we first offered this course and as a result, this time around the course will see some significant content changes. (in addition to COVID changes in red below) There's no longer a team-based educational game project in the second half of the course. Instead, we'll be looking at a range of small and/or large contributions to existing projects. (Note to game students, there's a great opportunity to get involved in something tied to games and get in on the ground floor. I won't be able to talk about it much at the beginning of class as it involves a soft-launch happening in March, but stay tuned)

The new book "Working in Public" (which we'll be reading) looks at the changes in FOSS and community and will set the context for some of the work you do in class this semester.

Due to our good friend COVID-19, the class meets MWF 9:00-9:50 in Zoom. The class will be recorded in case we have students that need to miss class due to documented health concerns so they will be able to stay up to date. After the semester, the M & F videos will be deleted. The guest lectures (most Weds classes) will be preserved for potential reuse for other classes or as archival resources for faculty and staff.

My preference would be for you to see you live in Zoom. If you can't do that, put up a still image of yourself (or at least some consistent image.) I need something visual to help me link you to your names. If you have concerns about any of this or are finding another COVID semester challenging, etc please email me.

All of RIT's student codes of conduct, code of ethical conduct and compliance, and computer use apply to this class

Assignments:
WordPress: Most of your assignments have a blog post component. You should all have been added to a class blog. There are categories of blog posts to select for your posts that match the assignment type. Please select the appropriate one before you post. Use the myCourses submission box to submit a link to your blog post.
Readings: First off there's the book that we'll read over the course of the first few weeks and a couple of additional articles linked in the syllabus. These are primarily for discussion. Later there'll be the LIT review assignments described below.
First Flight: Signing up for the various accounts you'll need, writing an intro blog post, and working with a class Github repository.
Comm Arch: Short for community architecture. This is work you'll do in a team where you'll do an analysis of an existing FOSS community. Go ahead and look at the link in the syllabus. It's a big list of stuff but you'll be splitting it across a team over two weeks each time. You'll do three overall across three of the four types of projects our text's authors, Nadia Eghbal labels as stadiums, federations, clubs, and toys (sorry, we won't be doing this assignment for toys)
Bug Fix: Your first small contribution you'll make to an external project as part of this class.
Lit review: We're going to be building an ongoing collection of readings that will be used by other courses and other people moving forward. We'll do these in alternating weeks. One week you'll find an article related to one of our topics online and do a Lit review of why you picked it and what you thought its strengths and weaknesses were. You'll add the link to that article and some notes to our Zotero Web Group Library. The following week you'll read each other's articles and the lit reviews that accompany them before getting together in a small discussion group to make some comments and rank them. You'll then submit the ranking as an email. The highest-ranked ones will go become a curated collection of readings for others to use.
Contributions: During the last half of the class you'll be participating in, and making contributions to, an existing project. Depending on your preferences you could spend all the time working with one project or split up that block across two or three.

Assignment Weight

First Flight	5%
Comm Arch	20%
Bug Fix	5%
Lit Review	20%
Contributions	40%
Attendance Participation	10%

Weekly Course Breakdown: Subject to change.

Week	Stuff that is due by Sunday 11:59 p.m. before Monday's Class	M. (Faculty Lecture and/or Class Discussion)	W. Guest Lectures and Q and A	F. (Class discussion, "lab" or group time)
1/25		Student and Faculty Intros, Class Overview, Basics of FOSS, Licenses Reading for Weds	Jacobs Open@RIT and Libre Corps, Discussion of licenses.	First flight assignment walkthrough by Kent Reese
2/1	Read WIP chaps 1-2, "How I coined the term Open Source" and "When Free Software Isn't Better"	Discuss readings	Eric Boucher Co-founder & CEO Ovio.org	Lit review assignment prep and First Flight breakout
2/8	Read WIP chap 3, "A Rape in Cyberspace," "Ethical Source" and SQL Lite Code of Conduct Controversy"	Discuss readings	Justin Flory, Open Source Software Technical Advisor, UNICEF Innovation	Comm Arch assignment prep

	First Flight is due Lit review is due			
2/15	Read WIP Chapter 4, "Programming is Forgetting" Lit review rankings are due Commarch Team #1 Steps 1-3	Discuss readings	Jenn Kotler, Senior UX Designer, Space Telescope Science Institute	Informal discussion CommArch 1
2/22	Reading: WIP 5 & Conclusion A lit review blog is due Commarch #1 4-8	Discuss readings	Remy Decausemaker, Linux Foundation, and FOSS Evangelist	Ignite presentation (Commarch 8)
3/1	Lit review rankings are due Com Arch #2 starts	Humanitarian Work International 50,000 foot view	Lucy Harris, Digital Public Goods	Informal discussion of Comm Arch 2
3/8	Lit review is due Completed Com Arch #2 is due	Civic FOSS 50,000 foot view	Mike Nolan, Assistant Director, Open@RIT	Ignite presentation of Comm Arch 2

3/15	Lit review rankings are due Comm Arch #3 starts	Research on FOSS	Ihudiya Finda Ogboru, Ph.D. in Information Science candidate (note to anyone not a student in HFOSS. She's working on her dissertation, please do not disturb)	Informal discussion of Comm Arch 3
3/22	Read: How to Report Bugs Effectively Lit review is due Comm Arch #3 is due	Open Hardware intro	Recharge Day, No Class	Ignite presentation of Comm Arch 3
3/29	Lit review rankings are due Bug Fix pick is due	What's your Bug Fix and why?	Jacob Green, Moss Labs	Bug Fix Lab Time
4/5	A completed Bug fix is due Lit review is due	Open Science intro	Matt Bernius, Principal User Researcher, Code for America	Discussion, contribution Lab Time

4/12	Lit review rankings are due Contribution #1 starts	Open Data intro	Tom Snyder, [Seneca Park Zoo](#)	Discussion, contribution Lab time
4/19	Contribution #1 completed Contribution #2 Starts	Open Educational Resources Intro	Chris Kurz, NTID. Principal Investigator, [World Around You](#)	Discussion, contribution Lab time
4/26	Contribution #2 completed Contribution #3 starts	OSPOs in Industry		Discussion, contribution Lab time
5/3		No Class, it's Thursday today :-)	Last Class	
Finals Week	Contribution 3 Completed by 11:59 p.m. May 9th.			