# Introduction to Openness

IS 289 Winter Quarter
Tuesdays 1:30-4:30
Moore 3027
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**Description:** This class is designed to introduce students to the politics and practices of "openness." In recent decades, a variety of technical, legal and political changes have transformed our information ecology with respect to the ownership, accessibility and re-usability of archivable material. While the debate focuses primarily on digital technologies, the issues of "openness" affect all media and material today, and concern not only technical choices, but legal, institutional, economic and even aesthetic choices. At the same time the term "openness" has become so general, and so ubiquitous, that it is applied as easily by militaries and corporations as it is by free software crusaders or transparency hawks. This class aims to show students how to pick through the language of openness in order to understand the concrete practices of knowledge and power at stake in contemporary information creation and management.
Open to MLS and IS PhD students (PhD students will have additional requirements).

**Goals:** To understand what openness is and isn't and the reasons for wanting it. How is openness related to: freedom, innovation, power, public goods, economic gain and loss, access, knowledge creation, property, transparency and accountability? To understand the opposites of openness and their importance: privacy, secrecy, proprietary knowledge, safety, security, control. To understand the practices involved in trying to achieve openness: intellectual property, standards and protocols, collective movements, collaboration and "social" everything (e.g. Web 2.0 and 3.0). The class emphasizes critical analysis, careful argumentation and pragmatic application of diverse research methods. Students are expected to develop knowledge and skills to let them critically assess any of a range of projects and proposals that link openness to some good or another.
Some things you may be expected know by the end of the class:

- know and understand the role and value of openness in recent business and cultural and academic life.
- know the difference between standards, protocols, formats and their implementations.
- know the difference between types of intellectual property (patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret and sui generis)
- know and understand the role of institutions in openness (courts, corporations, government regulatory agencies, standards bodies, social movements)
- know and understand how the technical and legal questions of openness are related to prinicples and goals of democracy, public participation and representation
- know and understand how openness is related to the growth of knowledge and the goals of collective knowledge production

**Pre-requisites:** None.

**Readings:** As many of the readings as possible will be drawn from open access sources.

**Course Website:** http://kelty.org/289

**Requirements (This is a Draft Syllabus, Requirements are subject to Change):**

1. Participation in discussion: 30%
2. Occasional reading responses and quiz-like experiences: 25%
3. End of quarter group project. Detailed evaluation of a real world case of openness. Includes a presentation/teaching component, and a written component: 45%

**Detailed Schedule**

**Jan 6.** Introduction

- Why Openness?
- Which of these things are open, and why?
    - Wikipedia
    - Intellipedia
    - Google
    - Facebook
    - Central Park
    - BioMed Central
    - The Ubuntu Linux operating system
    - Connexions
    - 23andMe
    - The Metropolitan Museum
    - The beaches of Malibu
    - The Library of Congress
    - American Film Institute Archives
- Film: *Secrecy,* Peter Galison and Robb Moss
    - Memory Hole http://www.thememoryhole.org/about/
    - NSA Archives http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/
    - John Young http://cryptome.org/ and http://jya.org/

**Jan 13.** Openness.

- Openness as publics; social imaginaries as ideas of order: Openness as an ideal of moral and social order
    - Michael Warner, "Publics and Counterpublics" (pdf on website)
    - Charles Taylor, "Modern Social Imaginaries" (pdf on website)
    - Kelty, *Two Bits: The Cultural Significance of Free Software* Intro and Chapter 1

**Jan 20.** Ideologies of Openness (what can be a movement?)

Free Software/Open Source

- Kelty, *Two Bits* Chapter 3

*Open Access*

- Suber, Peter. 2004. "Creating an Intellectual Commons through Open Access." http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/archive/00001246/
    - Peter Suber's Blog, http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/fosblog.html

*Open Science*

- Priniciples for open science
  http://sciencecommons.org/resources/readingroom/principles-for-open-science/
    - http://sciencecommons.org/about/science-commons-dylan-video

*Open Educational Resources*

- Cape Town Declaration http://www.capetowndeclaration.org/
- Hewlett Foundation Open Educational Resources Report http://www.oerderves.org/?p=23
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**Jan 27**. Practices of Sharing (What can be shared?)

*Software: UNIX Culture*

- *Two Bits*, Chapter 4

*Flies and Viruses: Sharing in Science; Moral Economies in Science*

- Robert Kohler, *Lords of the Fly,* Chapter 5 (the Drosophila Exchange Network) pdf on web site
- Richard Jefferson, "Science as Social Enterprise." (link)

*Music and Movies: File Sharing and p2p*

Films: Steal This Film Part 1

Steal This Film Part 2 http://www.stealthisfilm.com/Part2/download.php

The Amen Break http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SaFTm2bcac

Good Copy Bad Copy http://www.goodcopybadcopy.net/

*Ethnographic data and Culture: Circulation and Loaning of objects*

Final Version, Jan 5, 2008

Circulation of Art and ethnographic objects

- Robert Leopold, "The Second Life of Ethnographic Fieldnotes" http://ateliers.revues.org/document3132.html
- Kim Christen **Tracking Properness: Repackaging Culture in a Remote Australian Town.** Cultural Anthropology, August 2006, Vol. 21, No. 3, pp. 416-446. **Tracking Properness: Repackaging Culture in a Remote Australian Town.** Cultural Anthropology, August 2006, Vol. 21, No. 3, pp. 416-446. http://www.kimberlychristen.com/?page_id=4

**Feb 3.** Law (What Can't be owned?)

*Trademark, Patent Copyright basics*

- Court cases from Merges et.al. *Intellectual Property* TBD

*Copyleft licenses*

- On the GPL (*Two Bits* Chapter 6)
- On EULAs and Terms of Service
  - Whose game is this anyway? Negotiating corporate ownership in a virtual world TL Taylor - Computer Games and Digital Cultures Conference Proceedings, 2002 - digra.org
- On MTAs (Science Commons project)
- On Fair Use
  - Boyle, *Public Domain*
  - *Bound by Law*
- Michael Brown, *Who Owns Native Culture?*

**Feb 10:** Infrastructure, Protocols, Standards

- Schmidt and Werle, *Coordinating Technology*
- Star and Ruhleder, *Infrastructure*
- Bowker and Star, *Sorting Things Out*
- Two Bits Chapter 5
  - Sun, Unix and AT&T (kelty)
  - TCP/IP vs. OSI
- Brock *Second Information Revolution*

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- Ithiel de Sola Pool, *Policies for Freedom*

**Feb 17:**
Openness as Innovation: distributed cooperation (what can't be coordinated?)

- Clay Shirky, Here Comes Everybody
- Benkler, Wealth of Networks
- Linux and Apache (*Two Bits*, Chapter 7)

**Feb 24:** Group Project Presentations

**Mar 3:** Group Project Presentations

**March 10:** Group Project Presentations. Conclusion.

**Group Project.** The bulk of the assessment for this course will be the creation of a group research report and presentation on an existing project or issue concerning openness. The report will use the framework, reading and analysis presented in the first 6-7 weeks of the class to analyze and critically assess the claims to openness of the project(s) chosen by the group. The report must include sections that analyze each of the major components; identifies what the goal of openness is (to make money? to enhance the public good? to improve health or welfare?), assess it both on its own terms and in terms of the analytical frame provided by the class, and present these findings to the class. A more detailed brief with instructions will be provided in class.

**Some Potential Cases**

Electronic Voting Machines
-votebox http://votebox.cs.rice.edu/
- punchscan http://www.punchscan.org/
- pvote http://pvote.org/

Polling and Polling Methodology
- 528.com

Open Biology
- 23and Me and the Personal Genome Project
- DIY Bio, Citizen Science movements http://diybio.org
- BIOS/Patent Lens http://cambia.org/
- Synthetic Bio/Biobricks http://syntheticbiology.org/

Open music,film,games
big buck bunny
blender
magnatune
myspace/facebook
archive.org

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Open Phones
Open Moko

a2k
– access to knowledge
–
open business

open manufacturing/open design

OLPC

SISU

Linux

Zotero and Omeka

peer 2 peer, distributed repositories
object IDs Clouds, Grids and matrices.

Open ID
http://openid.net/foundation/intellectual-property/

Google.
http://www.openstreetmap.org

Open Innovation
Henry Chesborough, Susan Scotchmer etc.

National Data
http://www.freeourdata.org.uk/index.php

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Further resources:

http://opendotdotdot.blogspot.com/

http://openeverything.wik.is/Mapping_Open/Initiatives

http://oer.issuelab.org/research

http://p2pfoundation.net/Openness

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_Standards

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