

Spring 2002 Calendar

Feb 7 **History and Theory: Using Electronic Media**, Develin Room, Olin Library, Noon.

Two editors from History and Theory, (Brian Fay, Executive Editor, and Julie Perkins, Administrative Editor) will discuss the many ways the journal has taken advantage of electronic media, including electronic availability of the journal, its web-page, list-servs, discussion networks, and electronic editing and printing. Other topics might also include the relation between print and electronic media, archiving of past issues, and the impact electronic availability will have on how journals are evaluated by libraries and publishers.

Brian Fay is the William Griffin Professor of Philosophy, Wesleyan University. He is also the author of *Social Theory and Political Practice* (1975), *Critical Social Science: Liberation and its Limits* (1987), and *Contemporary Philosophy of Social Science: A Multicultural Approach* (1996).

Feb 14 **Weswulf: Wesleyan's Beowulf cluster**. Develin Room, Olin Library, Noon.

Reinhold Blumel, Associate Professor of Physics will present Wesleyan Computing Clusters, called Weswulf, a name inspired by the Beowulf cluster project. The idea behind a Beowulf cluster is to combine several computers to function as a single high-performance, parallel computing system. Learn more about Beowulf clusters at

<http://www.cacr.caltech.edu/beowulf/tutorial/building.html>

Feb 21 **Teaching the ethical reasoning essential capability**, Develin Room, Olin Library, Noon.

As part of the ATR's evolution, we are expanding the program to encompass aspects of teaching that do not necessarily involve the use of technology. This will be the first of these sessions.

Lori Gruen, Philosophy and Laura Grabel, Biology.

Feb 27 **A System Impenetrable to New Ideas? The Culture of Education and the Future of Information**, Peter Schilling, Director

of the Educational Technology Center, Bowdoin College, Develin Room, Olin Library, Noon.

Will the story of education and networked digital information (the "Internet") be one of success or failure? Using two very different gauges to evaluate our progress so far, the picture does not look promising. First, radio between 1910–1940 was the last major shift in information creation–distribution. Comparing our current efforts to educators' initially enthusiastic and voluminous reaction to radio, we learn that institutions of learning are, once again, failing to make substantive changes. Second, evaluating the use of new technologies to enhance student's learning in the context of computer game development in the last twenty–five years, we will see that education has already fallen very far behind the pack.

Mar 7 **Wesleyan WebTechs** showcase, Develin Room, Olin Library, Noon.

This presentation will feature selected webtech projects from this year's WebTech program, as well as provide information for faculty who are interested in having a WebTech for their course(s) next year. For more information about Wesleyan's WebTechs program, visit <http://www.wesleyan.edu/its/jan2002/webtechs/>.

Mar 28 **Endnote**, Kendall Hobbs, Reference Librarian, Develin Room, Olin Library, Noon.

Wesleyan has a site license for EndNote, a program for managing bibliographies. With EndNote, you can type in or download citation information for all your sources, then match them to a Word document to quickly insert and format (and easily reformat) footnotes and bibliographies automatically. You can also add annotations to the sources listed to make your collection of sources easier to organize and search. The library has created an online tutorial for EndNote at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/tut/endnote/>.

Apr 4 **Usability Lab**, Chris Miller, Develin Room, Olin Library, Noon.

The Usability Lab exists to help improve the usability of websites and other computer-based applications developed for the Wesleyan community. Usability is, very simply, the quality of something being easy to use. To be usable, it should also be obvious what a thing, such as a website, can be used for. Our primary activity is providing advice through reports based on usability assessments, which range from tests of how websites appear on different browsers and different platforms, to more extensive qualitative analyses of site design and organization. Please visit the Usability Website at: <http://www.wesleyan.edu/its/web/usability/>

Apr 11 Web Teaching, Sarah Horton, Dartmouth College

Sarah Horton is a nationally-recognized expert on instructional design. She will also be holding a workshop during the afternoon. To sign up for the workshop, contact Michael Roy, mroy@wesleyan.edu. More information on her work can be found at <http://www.webteachingguide.com/> .

Handouts for presentation:
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~shorton/wesleyan/>

The Workshop will be held between 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. in the Develin Room.

Apr 18 Teaching with Laptops, Develin Room, Olin Library, Noon.

Marta Añez (Art) and Steve Angle (Philosophy) have been experimenting with having students use wireless laptops in class while they are teaching architecture (Añez) and Chinese Philosophy (Angle).

Apr 25 Making Videos, Bob Steele, Bob Kao and Saj Rahman

Department based video labs offer a great opportunity for faculty and students to collaborate in making videos. Topics to be addressed: the equipment needed for such a lab, the learning opportunities made possible by video production, and two examples of student videos.

May 2 Using technology for research and teaching in religion, Elizabeth McAlister, Olin Library, Noon.

Liza McAlister will discuss her use of technology in the social sciences. She will show how Blackboard functions as an "intellectual neighborhood" for the essayists in her forthcoming volume on "Religion and Race," as well as her use of the web in studying new religious movements. This session will be especially useful to faculty in the social sciences, arts and humanities, who wish to use available technologies in teaching and research. In addition to Blackboard, Professor McAlister also uses multimedia (audio) CDROM as an aide to text in her soon to be released book "Rara! Vodou, Power, and Performance in Haiti and Its Diaspora" (University of California Press, 2002). She is also considering including video clips online using Wesleyan's streaming media server.