Dear colleagues,

Take one. “Electronic devices and the classroom”. If you scan the recent literature from North America about teaching and learning in higher education, you’ll see “e-devices” everywhere – how to engage students with e-devices, use of e-devices in teaching and learning in higher ed, e-device policies, reasons to allow (or not) e-devices in the classroom, faculty guidelines for student use of e-devices, and the list goes on.

Russell Williams brings it home: “I’m starting to think that the phrase ‘electronic devices’ sounds slightly luddite (pagers? pacemakers? fax machines?). What are we talking about really?”

Take two. “**Smartphones, laptops and the classroom**” – the new title for the upcoming **Mellon Pedagogical Seminar this Wed. Oct. 5, 5-6:30 in C-104, facilitated by Russell Williams and Robert Payne.**

Russell shares with us an anecdote from his class last week: “I’ve taken a strict, ‘no compromise’ approach to students and smartphones so far this semester; so much as a glimpse at the time on your phone, and you’ll find your phone on my desk until the end of class (I’ve been tempted to put a couple on eBay). This week, though, something got me rethinking my radical (Luddite?) approach. The students were workshopping the new MLA citation formats and building a bibliography by looking at a range of physical sources: books, journals and magazines. Class time was running out, so I - exceptionally - said they could photograph the relevant sections from the sources to finish at home. A minor pedagogical revelation ensued - the students set to work, not only taking snaps on their phones, but setting up a WhatsApp group to share the photos around the group. Is this the start of a new phase of collaboration among my students? On verra....” Follow-up to this and more to be continued this Wednesday.

We hope to see you there!

All best,

Rebekah