University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication Studies (COMS) 401 – Seminar 02
Special Topics in Communications Studies
Regulating Communications in Canada
Winter 2016

Start & end dates (& dates excluded)
Mon., Jan. 11 – Mon., April 11 (excluding Feb. 15)

Lectures, days, and time; Tutorials, days, and time
M 16:00-18:45

Instructor:	Richard Hawkins
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Office Hours:	Mondays 10:00 – 11:00, Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00, or by appointment

Course Description

Through lectures, discussions and workshops, students will explore the global legislative and regulatory environment for telecommunication and the Internet. Students will explore social, legal, political and economic theories of regulated industries, focusing primarily upon the wired and wireless communications infrastructure.

Students will then apply this knowledge to topical communication issues that currently are under consideration or review in the Canadian regulatory system, as centered in the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

Students will prepare individual papers and will also engage in intensive group work. Teams will prepare, present and argue regulatory interventions on specific issues in front of an expert panel in a moot CRTC hearing. Teams will work in conditions that mirror those of an actual regulatory intervention.

The first five weeks will be devoted to an intensive examination of the essential theories, instruments, institutions, and practices of communication regulation, coupled with an exploration of how regulatory processes respond to evolution in the technologies of communication. The second part of the course situates these materials in their Canadian contexts. The last part focuses on practice: acquiring and applying the research and professional skills necessary in order to prepare effective regulatory interventions.

Additional Information   N/A

Objectives of the Course

The course is intended provide students with:

- knowledge of the history, theory and practice of regulation as applied to communication infrastructures;

- understanding of the technological, political and industrial components of the communications infrastructure, how they work and how they interact;

- specialized research skills involving government and public documents;

- first hand exposure to the tactics and strategy of engaging in the regulatory process;

- experience in developing and arguing regulatory positions in teams, and under conditions akin to what they would encounter in actual regulatory proceedings.

Textbooks and Readings

Required textbook:

Nuechterlein, J. E. & P. J. Weiser (2013) *Digital Crossroads: Telecommunications Law and Policy in the Internet Age*, (Second Edition), Cambridge MA: MIT Press.

Available in the University Bookstore.

Additional required readings:

Babe, R. E. (1990) *Telecommunications in Canada: Technology, Industry and Government*, Part One pp. 3-29. Available on D2L.

Beaudry, P. (2010) Wireline deregulation: The Canadian experience, *Telecommunications Policy*, 34, 606-615. Available on D2L.

Iacobucci, E., Trebilcock, M., & Winter, R. (2006). The Canadian experience with deregulation. University of Toronto Law Journal, 56(1), 1–74. (Students are responsible only for p- 1-29). Available on D2L.

Jackson, S. J., Edwards, P. N., , Bowker, G. C., & Knobel, C. P. (2007) Understanding Infrastructure: History, Heuristics, and Cyberinfrastructure Policy, *First Monday* 12(6) (on-line journal) Available on D2L.

Mueller, M. (1993) Universal service in telephone history: a reconstruction, *Telecommunications Policy*, 17 (5), 352-369. Available on D2L.

Mussio, L. (2001) *Telecom Nation: Telecommunications, Computers and Governments in Canada,* Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queens University Press. Chapter 4 (pp 89-116). Available on D2L.

Telecommunications Policy Review Panel (2006), *Final Report*, Ottawa: Industry Canada. (Students are responsible for Chapters 1 and 9). Whole report available on D2L.

Winseck, D. (1995) A Social History of Canadian Telecommunications, *Canadian Journal of Communication*, 20 (2) (online journal). Available on D2L.

Supplementary readings:
Additional readings will be posted on March 7, just prior to organization of the group projects. These will provide background to the subject areas that will form the basis of these projects.

Research resource readings:
A selection of general research resources – handbooks, guides etc. – will be placed on reserve for consultation. These will be posted at the beginning of Term. An additional bibliography will be provided to assist students in preparing projects and papers.

Internet and electronic communication device information
Students are welcome to bring laptops and other devices to class so long as these are used to aid student learning. During class, it is not acceptable to play games, answer email, surf the web, or engage in other non-class activities. Cell phone use is not permitted at any time. Inappropriate use of technology not only affects you, but it also distracts other students and undermines our goal of creating a respectful learning environment.

Assignments and Evaluation

Students will be graded based on the following components:

(1) In Class Mid-Term Quiz (25%)   (February 22)

A 1.5 hour in-class quiz will test for comprehension of key concepts, definitions, legal and regulatory instruments, as discussed in weeks one through five.

(2) Policy Briefing (35%)   (Due in class March 14)

Each student individually will prepare a fully referenced policy briefing such as might be required by a government ministry, an NGO, a community group etc. Briefings will take a general subject or theme that is covered in the first five weeks of the course, and discuss it critically with reference to the current situation in Canada relevant to this subject or theme. Papers will be minimum 8 pages and maximum 10 pages in length, exclusive of references. A general organizational outline will be provided at the beginning of Term.

(3) Group project exercise (30%)   (Due in class April 11)

Regulatory interventions on important topics are typically developed in teams that integrate several areas of expertise. Depending upon the subject matter, teams can require input on legal, economic, political, cultural, commercial and strategic matters.

The group exercise aims to reproduce this environment in real time and under realistic working conditions. Small teams (3-4 participants) will be formed around 4-5 specific topical issues that are currently on the Canadian regulatory agenda. Two teams will be

assigned to each issue. One team will be assigned to argue in favor of a proposition or position, the other against it. Students will be assigned to teams, and teams to issues and positions by lottery.

Teams will allocate different responsibilities and research tasks to different group members. Each group will then research the issues and prepare their position with reference to the relevant legal and regulatory frameworks, and to CRTC decisions and rulings. Three in-class workshop sessions will assist teams in researching and developing their cases, and in formulating presentation and argumentation strategies. One of these workshops will deal specifically with how to research government documents.

The last day of class will take the form of a mock CRTC hearing in front of a panel of experts. Each group will have ten minutes to present their case, with an additional 10 minutes to respond to questions from the panel.

The hearing presentations will be backed up by written submissions from each team – maximum 2 pages – that summarize the key points and arguments of the presentation. These must be submitted by email to the instructor on or before April 8, so that they can be distributed in advance of the mock hearing to members of the panel.

Exercises will be assessed on the adequacy of background preparation, the strength of the argumentation, the ability to respond to specific questions, and the overall persuasiveness of the presentation.

The schedule for the group exercise is as follows:

> March 7 – Special topics announced for group presentations, along with appropriate background reference materials for each topic.
>
> March 14 – Students form up working groups and are assigned to topics (lottery system).
>
> March 21 – Research workshop on government documents.
>
> March 28 and April 4 – In-class group workshops.
>
> April 8 – Intervention submissions due (by email to instructor)
>
> April 11 – In class. Final presentations to mock panel.

(4) Participation (10%) Students are expected to complete all assigned readings ahead of class, and to participate actively by engaging with their fellow students and by offering thoughtful and constructive commentary during class discussions and in groups.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

All assignments and exams must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments:
Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments

will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act.* For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

Policy for Late Assignments
Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Student Accommodations:
Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf .

Please note:
1. Students seeking accommodations for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors directly. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.
2. When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.
3. For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calenda*r at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html and http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html

Writing Skills Statement
Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you

need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support

Grading & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film
Final grades are reported as letter grades. However, assignments, exams, and other work in this course will be graded using a combination of percentage and letter grades. Each assignment will receive a percentage grade along with an indication of which letter grade would be awarded.

The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department. If letter grades are used for an assignment or other course component, the percentage equivalent in the final column will be used for calculating the final grade:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
4.00	Outstanding	**A+**	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	**A**	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		**A -**	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		**B+**	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	**B**	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		**B-**	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		**C+**	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	**C**	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		**C-**	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	**D+**	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		**D**	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	**F**	00 - 49.99%	0%

Plagiarism
Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where

they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436 . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support).

Academic Misconduct
For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

Research Ethics
Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY • **Calgary Police Service** • **Emergency Text Messaging** • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • **Safewalk Program**	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ **403-220-5333** **403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911** http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (**220-5333**). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support • **IT help line**	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc

• **Writing Support Services** • **Student Services Mobile App**	http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS • **Faculty of Arts Reps** • **Student Ombudsman**	https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
SU WELLNESS CENTRE • **Counselling Services** • **Health Services** • **Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE** • **Online resources and tips**	**403-210-9355** (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.

Schedule of Lectures, Readings and Workshops (see next page)

Schedule of Lectures, Readings and Workshops

Date	Session	Topic	Readings
Jan 11	1a	Introduction and organization	N/A
	1b	Basics of network regulation	Jackson et al.; Mueller
Jan 18	2a	Wire-line Communication I	*Digital Crossroads:* Chapter 1
	2b	Wire-line Communication II	*Digital Crossroads:* Chapter 2
Jan 25	3a	Wireless Communication I	*Digital Crossroads:* Chapter 3
	3b	Wireless Communication II	*Digital Crossroads:* Chapter 4
Feb 1	4a	Broadband and the Internet	*Digital Crossroads:* Chapter 5
	4b	Net neutrality	*Digital Crossroads:* Chapter 6
Feb 8	5a	Interconnection	*Digital Crossroads:* Chapter 7
	5b	Universal service	*Digital Crossroads:* Chapter 8
Reading week – 14-21 February			
Feb 22	6	***In-class mid-term quiz (25%)***	
Feb 29	7a	Communications in Canada – History	Winseck; Babe
	7b	Communications in Canada – Industry	Mussio; Telecom Policy Review Panel (Chapter 1)
Mar 7	8a	Regulation in Canada – Legislation	Beaudry; Iacobucci (1-29)
	8b	Regulation in Canada – Institutions ***Special topics announced for group presentations***	Telecom Policy Review Panel (Chapter 9) ***Reference readings announced***
Mar 14	9	Special topics for group presentations discussed ***Workshop Groups assigned*** ***Policy briefings due (35%)***	Reference readings as announced March 7
Mar 21	10	RESEARCH WORKSHOP: W*orking with government documents and preparing* a CRTC intervention	N/A
Mar 28	11	GROUP WORKSHOP	N/A
Ap 4	12	GROUP WORKSHOP	N/A
Ap 8	------	*Intervention submissions due by email to instructor*	-------
Ap 11	13	**Final Presentations (30%)**	