

Communication Studies (COMS) 201 Lecture 02 – PF120  
Introduction to Communication Theory  
Weekend U Fall 2010

Lectures: Saturday: 1:00 PM. Class dates: September 18, 25; October 2, 16, 23; November 6, 20, 27

Instructor: James Butler  
Office Location: SS209  
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Office Hours: By appointment

### **Additional Information**

While we will explore the history of communication theory in the twentieth century the major focus will be on communication within today's popular culture. As such, some of the material we study manifests coarse language, sexuality, and violence. If this presents a problem for you, please contact me.

### **Course Description**

A general mapping of the field, with an emphasis on its breadth in the areas of media studies, communication of science and technology, and rhetorical communication. The course also provides a general examination of how Communications Studies emerged during the 20th century and how the field relates to issues of social and cultural change.

### **Objectives of the Course**

This course is designed to provide a broad introduction to a range of communication theories. Additionally, the course is intended to foster critical thinking that will assist students to approach their academic work from an informed and critical stance.

## Internet and electronic communication device information

Use of cellular phones and other such electronic devices and in class is strictly prohibited. Students requiring access for emergency situations may seek permission from the instructor prior to the beginning of class. Students found violating this policy may be asked to leave the classroom.

The use of laptops for the purpose of note-taking is permitted; however, students are not to use the devices for accessing social media during lectures. Students found violating this policy may lose use of laptops for the duration of the course.

### Textbooks and Readings:

The textbook for this course is: Julia T. Wood, Communication Theories in Action: An Introduction, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Thomson Wadsworth, 2004). Available at the Bookstore.

## Assignments and Evaluation

Research and reading assignment: 10%<sup>1</sup> (Due October 2)

Participation: 5%

Mid-term exam: 25% (October 16 – In-class)

Essay: 30%<sup>2</sup> (Due in class November 20)

Final Exam 30% (TBA)

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: 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 at SS320. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** Yes

### 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.

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<sup>1</sup> A handout describing the requirements for the assignment will be provided at the first class and will be posted on Blackboard.

<sup>2</sup> A detailed handout describing the requirements will be available at the first class and will be posted on Blackboard

## Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

## Writing Skills Statement

Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see [www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/info](http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/info). Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. 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: [www.efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca)

## Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

(Revised, effective September 2008)

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

## **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. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (MacEwan Student Centre 4<sup>th</sup> floor, [efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://efwr.ucalgary.ca)) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

## **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

## **Students' Union**

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Communication and Culture see <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/su>

## **Student Ombudsman**

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see  
<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

## **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

### **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

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:  
<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

Or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/compliance/ethics/info/undergrad/>

### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

To be posted on Blackboard before the first scheduled class September 18.