

Communication Studies (COMS) 201 – Lec 20
Introduction to Communication Studies
Spring 2012
Mon/Wed: 12pm-250pm

Instructor:	Chaseten Remillard
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Course Description

An introduction to the major theoretical traditions in the field of communication studies covering areas such as: rhetoric, mass media, interpersonal communication, critical theory, science technology and society, and feminist theory.

Objectives of the Course

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Identify the key concepts of the communication theories covered in the course reading material
2. Compare and contrast communication theories based on key concepts
3. Demonstrate your understanding of the theoretical concepts by applying them to a social context or media text

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops and computers are permissible within class. All other personal communication devices should be kept on silent and students should refrain from communicating via such devices during class.

Textbooks and Readings:

****Coms 201 - Introduction to Communication Studies**

(Nelson Custom Textbook, available in bookstore).

****Other online readings as assigned by the instructor, see reading schedule.**

Assignments and Evaluation

1) Participation: (10%) – Throughout class

- In class we will engage in group discussions, your attendance and your participation in these activities will be evaluated.
- Participation may also be in the form of participation on an online forum.

2) Mid-term Exam: (30%) – May 28

- The questions will be based on textbook and lecture material covered
- Exam will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions

3) Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination: (30%) – Date to be announced

- The questions will be based on the textbook and lecture material covered for the whole course
- Exam will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions

4) Written Assignment: (30%) – Distributed June 6; Due June 20

- Assignment will consist of questions based on material covered in the course.
- Questions will cover material from the course to date.
- Questions will require students to apply theoretical ideas and approaches to communications, as outlined in class, to real-world examples.
- Students will respond to each question in written form (maximum of 500 words per question).
- No outside research will be required to answer the questions, although additional research may be useful.
- Assignment will be assessed on clarity and quality of ideas expressed.

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. 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

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

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.

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

Department 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 <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. 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

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
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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 (3rd Floor Taylor Digital Family Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) 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 Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

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/cfreb>