

Communication Studies (COMS) 201 – Lec 60
Introduction to Communications Studies
Summer 2012

Saturday 9:00 – 14:30 Class Dates: July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11

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Course Description

This course will provide 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

Through readings, lectures, written assignments, and group discussions and activities COMS 201 will introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of communications. At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Identify key concepts of the communication theories covered in the course lectures and 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 are permitted for note taking only. Cellphones, iPods and gaming devices should be turned off during class. Please respect the lecturer and your fellow students. Improper use of electronic devices will impact your participation grade.

Textbooks and Readings:

Wood, Julia T. Communication Theories in Action: An Introduction. Third Edition. Canada: Wadsworth, 2004.

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation

1) *Participation: (10%)*

Participation grades will be awarded based on your active involvement in discussions and activities. Details of required activities will be provided in a separate outline. In order to receive participation grades, you are expected to be in attendance for lectures, contribute to discussions, and complete required group work and presentations. Improper use of electronic devices, as well as other forms of inattentiveness, will impact your participation grade.

2) *2 Theory Reflection Journal: (5% each (x2); 10%)*

You will have the opportunity to write reflection pieces on two theories. These two pieces will relate the theory to an applied (i.e. life) context. You must choose 2 **different** theories (ex. one on rhetoric and one on feminist theory). For example, watch a US election debate and write a reflection piece on how the candidates use rhetoric in their speeches. Additional information on the assignment will be provided during the first class. The first theory piece is due **July 28** and the second theory reflection piece is due the final day of class **August 11**.

3) *4 In Class Tests: (15% each (x4); 60% of final grade)*

There will be 5 exams (consisting of multiple choice and short answer). The exams will be held during class time. These exams are designed to gage your understanding of the material presented in class and readings. While there are 5 exams that are scheduled you may drop the lowest exam grade. I.e. only the 4 highest exam grades will count to your final grade. Exams are scheduled **July 14, 21, 28 and August 4, 11**.

4) *Final Examination: (20%)*

The final will be a take home exam. It will be handed out the last day of class and **Due August 18, 2012 5pm**. Questions will cover material from the entire course. Further instructions will be handed out with the exam.

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: NO

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: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System

In this class, you will receive grades in the 4-point scale (2.7, 3.0, 3.3) *rather than* percentages. Sometimes you may receive grade points between letter grades. 3.5 is the mathematical mid-point between a B+ (3.3) and an A- (3.7) and 3.15 is the mid-point between a B (3.0) and a B+ (3.3), etc.

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture: (Revised, effective September 2008)

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	Grade Point Value (see U of C Calendar: Academic Standing)
A+	96-100	4
A	90-95.99	4
A -	85-89.99	3.7
B+	80-84.99	3.3
B	75-79.99	3
B-	70-74.99	2.7
C+	65-69.99	2.3
C	60-64.99	2
C-	55-59.99	1.7
D+	53-54.99	1.3
D	50-52.99	1
F	0-49	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. 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>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

The schedule of lectures and readings will be provided during the first day of class.