Instructor: Dr. Maria Bakardjieva

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Office Hours: By appointment

Pre-session Study

(1) Read all Required Readings (to be found on Blackboard)

(2) Select one article from the set of *Required Readings* designated as *Discussion Readings* and prepare comments and questions with a view to leading a class discussion on that article. Using the Blackboard e-mail feature, send the instructor an e-mail to indicate which article you have chosen by December 12, 2012.

Course Description

This course examines the nature, origins and social implications of new media with a focus on the Internet. Evolving forms of interpersonal, group and public communication based on the Internet will be assessed in terms of the role they play in identity formation, cultural belonging, learning, political participation, commerce and work. Students will be introduced to theoretical frameworks that encourage critical engagement with the dynamic changes in the contemporary media environment. They will conduct research focused on particular new media such as online discussion forums and communities, blogs, social networking sites, citizen journalism sites, etc. The convergence between old and new media and the resultant challenges and opportunities will receive special attention including issues of political economy, copyright, production and use practices.

Additional Information

Students should have reliable access to the Internet as well as valid UofC e-mail addresses. The course will involve regular use of Blackboard. Research will be conducted on the Internet during and outside of class time. The use of a laptop in some parts of the class will be necessary. Students are expected to attend all classes on all days of the

course (attendance will be taken). Absence from half a day of the course will result in a participation grade of zero.

Objectives of the Course

The overall objective of the course is to provide a solid basis of knowledge and critical skills that would allow students to reflexively navigate the new media as users, researchers and creators. Such a basis is a necessary condition for the successful performance of every communication practitioner.

Internet and electronic communication device information

The use of laptops in class will be required for research and writing assignments. iPods, cell phones and other electronic devices should only be used in case of emergency. Cell phones should be turned off or on 'silent' if you expect an urgent call. The visual slides of student presentations will be posted on Blackboard.

Textbooks and Readings

Required readings will be made available through Blackboard, the Internet or library databases. Additional sources will be suggested by the instructor to individual students and working groups depending on their specific interests. **STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE READ ALL THE READINGS FROM THE *REQUIRED READINGS* LIST BEFORE THE START OF THE COURSE.**

Assignments and Evaluation

• Participation (10 %)

• Critical reflection (20%)

• Leading a discussion based on a selected reading (10%)

• Team research assignment and presentation (20%)

• Research paper (40%)

Participation includes: Contributing to in-class discussion on each day of the course, or posting responses and comments to the readings or to the class discussion in the designated Blackboard discussion forum. Online responses will only be counted when they address the topics and readings of the day in which they are posted. The evaluation of participation will be done in four categories: 'inadequate' (0 points), 'adequate' (3 points), 'good' (6 points) – student contributed substantive comments, their comment were informed (demonstrated familiarity with course readings) and insightful, 'very good' (9 points) – participation was regular, informed, enthusiastic, original and strongly

beneficial to the learning process. In exceptional cases some students may be given 10 points for outstanding participation and contribution to class discussion.

Critical reflection: At the end of each of the first four days of the course, students will write a reflection on the topics of the day's discussion in the form of a short essay (500-700 words). Students are free to focus on the issues and insights they have found the most important and interesting. They should articulate their own take on these issues and explain what lessons and further questions they take away from the readings and discussions that formed the focus of that day. The essay should propose possible topics or research questions for further investigation. One of the goals of this assignment is to help students formulate topics for their course papers. The essays will be submitted through the Digital Dropbox in Blackboard by 10 pm on each respective day. Each reflection is worth 5% of the course grade to a total of 20%.

Leading a discussion based on a course reading: (**TO BE PREPARED IN ADVANCE** and performed on the day of the course dealing with the respective theme. The schedule of discussions will be announced on the first day of the course). The discussion will be focused on a text selected by the student from the list of Discussion Readings provided in Blackboard. Students are expected to prepare substantive comments and questions related to the content of their chosen reading and to be able to initiate and moderate an in-depth discussion of that content. Students should send the instructor an e-mail (using the Blackboard e-mail feature) indicating which reading they have chosen **by December 12, 2012**. Students' own examples and material from additional sources could be used to enrich the discussion. Note: The Discussion Readings constitute a part of the Required Readings and as such should be read by all students.

Team research assignment and presentation: Students will form teams on the first day of the course. Each team will choose a research topic addressing selected phenomena or issues related to the course content. The team will work together to conduct research on that topic and to prepare a presentation of their findings. This research should engage and/or apply concepts and theories introduced in the course lectures, readings and discussions. Time for working on the research assignment will be set aside on each day of the course. Research topics will be offered by the instructor, but students could come up with their own topics as well (to be approved by the instructor). All team presentations will be given in the **afternoon of January 7th**. Notes and visuals (if used) should be posted in the designated online forum by 10 pm on that day.

The research paper (15 pages double-spaced, 12 p, Times New Roman) should focus on a new-media development or issue related to the themes, perspectives and debates covered in the course. It should be based on literary sources identified by the student and should present a critical examination and/or argument concerning the topic. Paper topics should be selected in consultation with the instructor. Deadline for submitting paper topics with research questions and 100 words abstract is **Friday, January 18, 2013** (submit through the Blackboard Digital Dropbox. **Paper due date: Monday, February 25, 2013** (submit through the Blackboard Digital Dropbox and bring a paper copy to the instructor's office).

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

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

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

	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 (3rd Floor Taylor Family Digital 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.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds

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/ethics/cfreb

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

TBA