University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication and Media Studies COMS 591 S03
Senior Seminar in Communication and Media: Internet Policy

Winter 2018

Tues., January 9 – Tues., April 10 (excluding Tues., February 20)

Tuesdays 12:30-3:15pm

Instructor:	Tamara Shepherd
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Web Page:	D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 3:15-4:15pm, or by appointment

Course Description

This course considers the topic of internet policy: how the internet is regulated as a public good. Topics covered will include network neutrality, data privacy, digital copyright, and freedom of expression. While the focus of the course will be on Canadian internet policy, we will also cover other international regulatory contexts. Students will undertake a major project that integrates their understanding of communication theory, history and methodology in an analysis of internet policy issues.

Objectives of the Course

By the end of this course, students should be able to
- demonstrate familiarity with internet policy issues
- explain how Canadian and other governments regulate the internet
- suggest policy recommendations based on scholarly research
- work effectively individually and cooperatively in groups, and hand work in on time
- develop presentation style and other research and writing skills

Textbooks and Readings

All readings will be posted to D2L; see reading list below. Students are expected to have all readings completed **prior** to scheduled class times in order to contribute effectively during class discussions and activities.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops are permitted for note taking only. **iPods, cellphones and gaming devices may not be used at all during class.** Please respect the instructor and your fellow students. Improper use of electronic devices will impact students' grades.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Course components	Due
10%	**Attendance and participation** This is a seminar course, and so a significant portion of course time will be devoted to class discussion. All students are expected to be present, to have done the assigned readings, and to offer considered contributions to class discussion.	Throughout the term
20%	**Writing prompts** These are in-class writing assignments that take place five times throughout the term. They will last from 15 to 30 minutes. Students will be given a notebook for writing in, which will be collected at the end of each class. Students can choose their best four out of five entries to count for the 20% (each entry = 5%).	Throughout the term
20%	**Privacy threat analysis** In pairs, students submit a 3-4 page (900-1200 word) report on a particular privacy threat, which will be assigned by the instructor. This report should explain the privacy threat, relate it to Canada in some way, and discuss how regulation could help mitigate the threat. an analysis: Students will also prepare a 5-minute synopsis of the paper to present to the class on February 6.	January 30
10%	**Policy blog post** Students will develop one of the writing prompts into a 200-300 word blog post. This will involve contextualizing an internet policy issue by referencing at least one news article and choosing an image to accompany the post that is in the public domain or licensed under Creative Commons.	March 6
10%	**Paper proposal presentation** Students will offer a 5-minute presentation that acts as a proposal for their final papers. This will help to clarify students' ideas for the final paper and allow them to provide and receive feedback on their idea from their instructor and peers.	March 27
30%	**Final paper** Students will write a major paper that considers two key internet policy issues, chosen from a list provided by the instructor. The paper will include a primer on each of the two issues that describes the issues and discusses how they are related by situating them in relation to a real-world example. Students will support their primer by integrating a review of scholarly literature with some news sources to demonstrate current debates in internet policy. The paper should conclude with policy recommendations	April 10

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Note: 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 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 and your instructor's name on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at marked final exams in SS 320. 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/legalservices/foip/foip-hia

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

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.pdf.

- Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.

- 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.

- 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

Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

Final grades are reported as letter grades. Course components will also be graded as letter grades. The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations* *
4.00	Outstanding performance	**A+**	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent performance	**A**	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70	Approaching excellent performance	**A -**	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30	Exceeding good performance	**B+**	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good performance	**B**	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70	Approaching good performance	**B-**	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	**C+**	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory performance	**C**	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance	**C-**	55 - 59.99%	57.5%

1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	**D+**	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	**D**	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	**F**	0 - 49.99%	0%

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

** These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

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. 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 support services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library). Visit the website for more details: http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support

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. Research and citation resources are also available on the website of the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/ If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or visit the writing support services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library, at 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 (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve 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 • **Writing Support Services** • **Student Services Mobile App**	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc 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 Lecture Topics and Readings   (all readings are on D2L)

1	Jan 9	How is the internet regulated?	
2	Jan 16	Access	Prompt 1
	Readings:	• *Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2016-496* • Howard, Busch & Sheets (2010), "Comparing Digital Divides"	
3	Jan 23	Network neutrality	Prompt 2
	Readings:	• *Telecom Decision CRTC 2017-105* • Barratt & Shade (2007), "Net Neutrality"	
4	Jan 30	Privacy	Privacy threat presentations
	Readings:	• *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)* • Shade (2008), "Reconsidering the Right to Privacy in Canada"	
5	Feb 6	Surveillance	Prompt 3
	Readings:	• Lyon (2014), "Surveillance, Snowden, and Big Data"	
6	Feb 13	Copyright	Prompt 4
	Readings:	• *Copyright Act* • Menard (2016), "Copyright, Digital Sharing, and the Liberal Order"	
-	Feb 20	NO CLASS: Reading Week	
7	Feb 27	Free culture	Prompt 5
	Readings:	• Lessig (2004), selections from *Free Culture*	
8	Mar 6	Freedom of expression	Blog post due
	Readings:	• Klonik (2017), "The New Governors"	
9	Mar 13	Content regulation	
	Reading:	• Roberts (2016), "Commercial Content Regulation"	
10	Mar 20	NO CLASS: Independent work period	
11	Mar 27	Paper proposal presentations	
12	Apr 3	The Public Interest	
	Reading:	• Shade (2008), "Public Interest Activism in Canadian ICT Policy"	
13	Apr 10	Last class wrap-up	Final paper due