

University of Calgary
Department of Communication and Culture

Science, Technology and Society STAS 341 L01
New Media, Technology, and Society

Fall 2014

Mon Sept 8 – Fri Dec 5 (excluding Nov 10 & 11)
TR 14:00-15:15

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Feng
Office: SS 308
Office Phone: 403-220-6819
E-Mail: pfeng@ucalgary.ca
Web Page: comcul.ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Thurs 12:30-13:30 or by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the social, political, and cultural aspects of new media and information and communication technologies (ICTs) within contemporary societies. We will investigate what it means to live in “an information society” using a mix of theoretical approaches and concrete case studies. Topics to be covered include: history of new media; approaches to new media; social networking; games; creative industries; the knowledge economy; and Internet law and policy.

Additional Information

This is a research intensive course and is not recommended for first-year students.

Objectives of the Course

By the end of the course students should:

1. Be familiar with a number of theories about technology and its relationship to society;
2. Think critically about the design, marketing, consumption, and use of new media and ICTs in modern societies;
3. Have developed some expertise on how new media and ICTs are being applied in a particular field (e.g., education, environment, health, politics).

Textbooks and Readings

Terry Flew and Richard Smith, *New Media: An Introduction* (Canadian ed.), Oxford University Press.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Please turn off cell phones during class. Students are welcome to bring laptops and other electronic devices to class so long as these are used to aid student learning. During class, it is not acceptable to play games, answer email, surf the web, text/IM, or

engage in other non-class activities. Not only do such practices negatively affect you, they also distract others and undermine our goal of creating a respectful learning environment. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave.

Assignments and Evaluation

Students will be graded based on the following components:

- Tests (2 @ 25%) 50% *in class on Oct 7 and Nov 18*
- Participation 10% *throughout term*
- Group project 40% *reports due Nov 25;
presentations Nov 25-Dec 4*

Tests: Two in-class tests will be given: the first on Oct 7, the second on Nov 18. Tests will cover material from both the lectures and the textbook. Each test will be one hour in length and will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Participation: This is an interactive class. Students will have numerous opportunities to contribute to the class and sparking class discussions (e.g., by posting videos or news stories that are relevant to the week's topic). Your participation grade will be based on both in-class and online contributions.

Group project: Students will work in small groups researching a topic of their choice. Broadly speaking, the goal is to investigate an issue arising from the use of new media and ICTs. Students are encouraged to focus their attention on a technology that is being used in the Calgary area. At the end of the course, groups will present their findings and submit a written report summarizing their work.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Note: all assignments and exams weighted more than 30% must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your assignments directly to the instructor. 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 on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. 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/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

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.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

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. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. 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 Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System & Dept of Communication and Culture Grade Scale

Work in this course will be graded using letter grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in Communication and Culture:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%

0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	00 - 49.99%	0%
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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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <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 (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 <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A detailed schedule will be provided on the first day of classes.

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (PIC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 picarts@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333
• Calgary Police Service	403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911
• Emergency Text Messaging	http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	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/
<p>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
<p>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
<p>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> 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.