

Science, Technology and Society (STAS) 341:Lecture 20
New Media, Technology, and Society
Spring 2011
Mondays and Wednesdays:11:00 - 13:45
EDC 384

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

A study of the implications of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for political, social and economic organizations, individual psychology, and concepts of knowledge. Historical, ethical and legal implications will be discussed.

Objectives of the Course

By the end of the course, you should:

- be familiar with a number of theories about ICTSs;
- have an increased awareness of the history and development of ICTs in their social, political and economic context;
- be able to think critically about the social implications of ICTs as they relate to specific sectors, the formation of culture, and integration into your everyday life.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops are permitted in class as long as they are used EXCLUSIVELY for note taking.

Cell phones should be turned off during class and texting is NEVER permitted.

The use of electronic devices for extracurricular activities during class will have a direct impact on the participation mark.

Required Textbook and Website:

- Flew, T. (2011). *New media: An introduction* Canadian Edition. New York: Oxford University Press. THIS IS A NEW EDITION AND REQUIRED....
- <http://wcmprod2.ucalgary.ca/stas341/>

Assignments and Evaluation

The assignments and exams are intended to evaluate your knowledge of some of the major theories and issues surrounding representations and use of information and communication technologies

1) Mid-term examination (20%): June 1

- format: will be a mixture of questions (including multiple choice, application & short answer questions)
- based on chapters and material covered in the first five lectures

2) Group presentation & write-up: various dates (30%)

- Presentations will be based on a particular issue covered in the class and discussed on the website. Groups will be expected to integrate the ideas and findings of at least 5 peer reviewed sources into their proposal, presentation, and write up. Groups will be selected on the first day of class and you will be provided with some class time to prepare.
- This assignment has 4 parts:
 - a proposal worth 5% in which you identify five academic sources (in an annotated form) you will be integrating into your presentation and offer a basic outline of your presentation (length 1-2 pages)- **due May 25**;
 - a twenty minute presentation (on various dates), plus a 10 minute Q & A section, worth 10%;
 - a group write-up of your findings worth 15%, additional details on this will be provided in class, (length 4-6 pages each or an alternative format) due the final day of class (**June 22**); and,

3) In class participation (5%)

There will be a series of in class activities organized throughout the term that you will be expected to participate in all of which will lead to a final grade for this component. In addition, I may assign specific marks to some of these in class activities and/or send out some e-mail discussion questions you should be prepared to answer in class.

4) Reflection Activity (15%): June 13

This activity will ask you to survive without new media for as long as possible. 1 hour, 1 day, one week; how long can you last? You will be expected to reflect on this process and consider how this lived experience links to some of the theories and ideas we have discussed in class regarding ICTs.

5) Final Exam (30%): TBD

- format: a mixture of multiple choice, application & short answer questions
- cumulative, but with an emphasis on the content (lectures, readings and student presentations) covered in the last five classes and student presentations

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments should be handed in during lectures as indicated or in on the date they are due. **No email submissions will be accepted unless specified such as for your final assignment.** Students that anticipate delays should arrange with the instructor, PRIOR to the deadline (at least a day), an appropriate time and place to hand in the assignment. No late assignments will be accepted without a prior agreement between the instructor and student. Without this agreement late assignments will receive a zero.

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.

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

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

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 (MacEwan Student Centre 4th floor, efwr.ucalgary.ca) 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

A schedule of lectures and readings, and detailed assignment descriptions, will be made available on Blackboard.