

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Science, Technology and Society STAS 341 L01
New Media, Technology, and Society
Spring 2015
May 14 to June 26 (excluding May 18)
MW 9:00 – 11:45

Instructor: Heba Elsayed Mohamed
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Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: Monday 12:00 – 1:00 or by appointment

Course Description

A study of the implications of information technology for political, social and economic organization, individual psychology, and concepts of knowledge. Historical, ethical and legal implications will be discussed. In this course, we will focus on the social, political and cultural aspects of new media. The main goal of the course is developing a sense of how new media alters every aspect of our society. We will examine the affordances that new media offer us and how we, as users, contribute to the development and the social shaping of new media. Topics to be examined include: the historical development of new media, theoretical and methodological approaches to new media, mobile new media, social networks and participatory cultures, games technology, creative industries, the global knowledge economy, and Internet law, policy and governance.

Additional Information

Exam will be based on assigned readings and lectures.

Objectives of the Course

- Identify, analyze and evaluate the social, political, economic, and cultural factors that impact the development of new media.
- Think critically about the effects of technology on society and evaluate how society interacts with new media.
- Identify major theoretical and methodological approaches to new media.

Textbooks and Readings

New Media. An Introduction, Canadian Edition. Terry Flew and Richard Smith. Oxford University Press, 2014.

Please note that this is a new version of the textbook and older versions are not accepted. A copy of the textbook will be available on reserve in the library. Additional required readings will be available through D2L.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Mobile phones should be turned off during lectures. Electronic devices should be used for course-related functions only.

Assignments and Evaluation

| Assignment | Due Date | Percentage | Details |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Group Project Proposal | 27 May | 15 % | 1200 words |
| Term Paper | 3 June | 30 % | 1500 words |
| Mid-term Exam | 10 June | 30 % | In class |
| Group Presentation | 17 to 24 June | 25% | 15 minutes |

All assignments should follow APA guidelines for in-text citation and references. Please use Times New Roman, font 12, double space, and one inch margins and include word count at the end of each assignment.

- **Term Paper (30% – 1500 words – due in class)**
The main goal of this assignment is to evaluate society's interaction with different media and understand how new media shape daily lives of users. This assignment should be based on your textbook and additional readings of your choice. You should synthesize what you read with the practical use of the media as you observe it in our society. Think of the advantages, drawbacks, and challenges of new media (you may focus on mobile phones, social media, or the Internet) and develop your own insights and observations on how we are both shaped by and shape our technologies. Late assignment policy will be reinforced.
- **Mid-term Exam (30% - In class)**
The exam will include multiple choice questions only.
- **Group Project (15% proposal - 1200 words - due in class) and (25% group presentation)**
Students will be assigned to groups during the first class. Each group will choose a topic to investigate and present it in class. This research should go beyond the assigned class material to include additional sources and most importantly practical examples. The teams will have the responsibility to set up a meeting with the instructor to discuss their topic and research plan. Students will have to submit a proposal for their project and include at least six academic references.

Presentations will be 15 minutes long and will involve all members of the group. The presenters are expected to answer students' questions on the topic following their exposition. The use of visuals is required.

Please note that peer evaluations will be used for fair assessment of team work and marks will be deducted based on your peers' evaluations. Peer evaluation rubric will be posted on D2L.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

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 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. Students must upload assignments to D2L on due dates before midnight.

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 & Department of Communication, Media and Film

Grade Scale Work in this course will be graded using letter grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film:

| 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% |

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>

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IT help line | http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca |
| STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <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 |
| STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS <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 |
| SU WELLNESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 Lectures and Readings

Schedule of lectures and readings will be available through D2L.