

University of Calgary

Department of Communication and Culture

Science, Technology and Society (STAS) 341 L01

New Media, Technology & Society

Summer 2014

Wed., July 02 – Wed., August 13

Monday and Wednesday 15:00 – 17:45

Instructor: Dr. Mark Wolfe
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

Explosive growth and diversification of information-sharing technologies, and the increased demands on our attention and our time they impose, are shaping the world (and especially the world of relations) faster than ever. Leveraging their learning from research-based assignments on New Media technologies, students in this course develop critical perspective on New Media in terms of trending, as well as issues in information technology design, development and diffusion in society.

Primary Objective of the Course

To advance critical thinking skills by building students' theoretical and historical knowledge of the complex relationships involved new media design and use in society.

Internet and electronic communication device policy

Students are encouraged to bring a laptop, tablet or other word-processing enabled device to class, as they will be required to complete weekly in-class assignments.

Textbooks and Readings:

New Media: The Key Concepts. Nicholas Gane and David Beer. Berg Publishing, 2008
(Also available as a Kindle book for Kindle, PC and Mac Kindle readers.)

Selected readings from the web or made available in class. Consult D2L for details and links to external documents.

Assignments and Evaluation*

Short Group Assignments (35%): Starting the week of July 2 and running for 4 weeks, students will complete a series of short group assignments (2 per week; 7 in total) based on textbook readings and in-class discussion. Each group assignment is worth 5%.

Starting with the end of class on July 2, students on their own will download from D2L a very short individual “pre-assignment” question aimed at spurring their thinking on an issue related to that week’s readings. The pre-assignment is not for grading but each student must complete and hand in this short written assignment at the beginning of the next class in order to receive grading for their contribution to the group response that will be completed **by end of class** that next day.

So, pre-assignment questions received on Mondays will be prepared and handed in at the beginning of class on Wednesday in order to be eligible to do the in-class, for the graded group response on Wednesday. At the end of each Wednesday, students will download and prepare “pre-assignment” questions to hand in the following Monday in order to be eligible to do that day’s for-grades group assignment.

Groups will be assigned each day at random.

Mid-term exam (15%) – On July 30, students will complete an in-class, CLOSED BOOK, short-essay format exam. Students will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.

Final group project (50%) – This assignment, completed by groups of 3 or 4 students, comprises a short research proposal due July 23 (5%), a brief oral presentation to be made in class near the end of term (15%), and a final hand-in report/video/website/etc. (30%) due the last day of classes. These projects will focus on some new media technology (ie. social media; Netflix; remote sensing/surveillance, etc.), policy (ie. copyright; freedom of access; etc) or issue (ie. privacy; impact on literacy; cognitive impacts of new media).

*See D2L for more descriptions and course schedule.

NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

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 Scale

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 Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) 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

To be provided first day of classes