

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication and Media Studies COMS 203 L01

New Media

Spring 2019

Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00AM – 10:50PM in TI Learning Studio(s) D&E

Lab: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00AM – 11:50AM in TI Learning Studio(s) D&E

May 7 – June 13, 2019

Instructor:	Nicolette Little
Office:	SS250
Office Phone:	n/a
Email:	nicolette.little@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 12:30PM – 1:30PM, or by appointment, SS250

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to the social, political, economic, and cultural aspects of new media. New media will first be situated historically and set up as manifestations of different kinds of power. Topics to be examined include social networks, representation and identity online, activism, surveillance in digital culture, and regulatory frameworks. Toward the conclusion of the course, these elements will be brought together through case studies of specific new media forms: online activism, digital games/apps, and youth mobile cultures. The goal of the course is to provide students with the opportunity, through lectures and labs, to gain a broad understanding of new media as a terrain marked by diverse struggles for communication power.

Additional Information:

This course involves lectures and lab (discussion and activity) time. Students are responsible for participating in discussions and occasionally working in smaller groups. Regular attendance is expected and **participation is crucial**. Readings must be completed before class, and students are expected to participate fully in group discussions of all assigned readings.

Objectives of the Course: By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Understand the development of new media in relation to its historical, social, economic, and political context
- Identify and analyze cultural factors influencing design and use of new media
- Critically evaluate and apply a range of theoretical and empirical approaches to studying new media
- Interrogate their own new media practices and participation in digital cultures
- Develop both verbal and written analytic skills needed for undergraduate study

Textbook: Flew, Terry and Richard Smith. 2014. *New Media: An Introduction, 3rd Canadian Edition*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press. This book is available through the U of C Bookstore.

Additional readings will be supplied through D2L. Please note that required readings should be read **prior** to the lecture for which they are assigned.

Internet and electronic communication device information: I encourage you to bring your laptop or tablet to lectures and labs for note-taking purposes. Taking notes is strongly advised. Occasionally, you may be asked to use your device for an in-class exercise. However, students who are distracting their peers through the use of their computer/tablet/phone for purposes not related to class will be asked to leave. No audio or video recording of any kind is permitted in class without the prior permission of the professor.

Email policy: Before emailing me, please check that the answer to your question is not in the course syllabus! I aim to answer all email inquiries as soon as possible, but will not reply to emails in the evenings or over the weekend. When sending me an email, please specify what course you are in (COMS 203) and include a clear statement of purpose in the subject line. If you want to discuss an assignment or a concern about the course I prefer to meet in person during office hours, as these meetings are often more fruitful than a lengthy email exchange. I encourage you to use my office hours, and hope to meet many of you there throughout the semester.

Late arrival to class: Please arrive for classes on time. Late arrival disrupts class learning and instruction. I recognize, however, that unexpected circumstances arise from time to time: If you are joining the class late, *please enter quietly, and take the nearest seat available*. Thank you for your consideration for uninterrupted learning in advance.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Weight	Course components	Due
10%	<p>Participation</p> <p>Lectures/labs require active participation in group discussion and occasional activities. Participation is not measured solely by how often you speak up. Informed, thoughtful contributions to discussion are more important than frequent contributions. An ability to demonstrate familiarity with the required readings is also crucial. Attentive listening matters – students who interrupt others, distract their classmates, or use electronic devices in a way that distracts the instructor or their peers will see an impact on their participation grade. Students are also expected to participate by engaging with the presentations of fellow students by attending presentations, asking questions, and offering thoughtful and constructive commentary.</p>	Weekly in lab
10%	<p>Quiz 1</p> <p>Students will have the first 20 minutes of class to complete a multiple choice quiz. Questions will be based on lectures, labs, and readings. Specific quiz details will be shared with students during class on May 14.</p>	May 16

25%	<p>Midterm Exam</p> <p>Students will have 90 minutes to complete a midterm exam, which will cover lectures, labs, and reading from classes 1-6. Questions may be comprised of multiple choice and/or short answer questions, with one essay question.</p>	May 28
10%	<p>Quiz 2</p> <p>Students will have the first 20 minutes of class to complete a multiple choice quiz. Questions will be based on lectures, labs, and readings. Specific quiz details will be shared during class time on June 4.</p>	June 11
15%	<p>Ignite-Style Presentation</p> <p>Students will present in on a particular new media topic or case, according to the topic for the week: online political activism, digital games and apps or youth mobile cultures, for example. A signup sheet for presentation slots will be made available during our May 9 class. Those who do not sign up will be assigned to a slot. Students should prepare a five-minute Ignite-style talk that presents the example to class and highlights one specific problem or challenge related to the social, economic, political, or cultural aspects of that example. The presentations will be adapted from Ignite talks, where the five-minute talk will be accompanied by 16 slides that each automatically advance after 15 seconds. For more on Ignite talks and to view some examples, see: http://igniteshow.com/.</p>	Classes through May and June (see weekly outline, below)
30%	<p>Final essay</p> <p>The final essay is due in hard copy at the start of the last lecture. The essay will be 3 - 4 pages, double spaced, 900-1200 words in length, and will cite at least three academic sources. These sources can be textbook chapters, recommended scholarly readings, or books and journal articles that students locate independently. The essay will build from the Ignite presentation by applying two concepts from the course to the new media example used in the presentation. Detailed instructions for the essay will be provided in lecture.</p>	June 13

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: Assignments must be submitted in hard copy directly to the professor in lecture. 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 note that assignments will not be accepted via email unless permission on an individual basis is granted from the professor.**

Please include your name, ID number, and the instructor's name on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments in SS 320. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. Please 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. This includes weekends (e.g. if an assignment is due Thursday and you submit it on Monday you will be penalized four grades).

Late work will not be accepted one week past the original deadline without appropriate documentation (i.e. doctor's note). *Late work will not receive written feedback.*

Student Accommodations and Deferrals: 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) or for another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require that a medical note be presented. For the policy on supporting documentation the use of a statutory declaration, please see the following:

- Section N.1 of the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>
- FAQs for Students at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

Note that 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 that of another assignment or test.

For information on deferrals, see the following sections in the *University Calendar*:

- Section G.7 Deferral of Term Work at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>
- Section G.6 Deferral of Final Exam at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

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 using APA style. 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 & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film:

Final grades are reported as letter grades. In this course, percentage grades will be used for quizzes, tests and assignments. 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.

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, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436>. 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 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 <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 	https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ 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 • Sexual Violence Support • 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://www.ucalgary.ca/sexualviolencesupport/ 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:

Week 1, Class 1: Tuesday, May 7 – Course introduction & Defining “new” media

Required reading:

Flew & Smith – chapter 1 (Introduction to New Media)

Week 1, Class 2: Thursday, May 9 – Historicizing and theorizing new media

Required reading:

Flew & Smith – chapter 2 (The History of New Media)

Cassell & Cramer – “High Tech or High Risk: Moral Panics About Girls Online” (on D2L)

Optional additional reading:

Flew & Smith – chapter 3 (Approaches to New Media)

Week 2, Class 1: Tuesday, May 14 – Networks and social media (Case Studies –“Niqab Ban”)

Required reading:

Flew & Smith – chapter 5 (Social Networks and Participatory Culture)

Hearn and Schoenhoff – From celebrity to influencer (on D2L)

Optional/additional:

boyd – Why Youth Heart Social Network Sites (on D2L)

**** IGNITE PRESENTATIONS THIS WEEK****

Week 2, Class 2: Thursday, May 16 – Representation and identity / Digital inequalities

**** QUIZ #1 ** (first 20 minutes of class)**

Required reading:

Gill – Postfeminist media culture (on D2L)

Phipps – Whose personal is more political? (on D2L)

**** IGNITE PRESENTATIONS THIS WEEK****

Week 3, Class 1: Tuesday, May 21 – Representation and identity con'd./ Digital inequalities

Required reading:

Miller – Digital inequality (on D2L)

Boyd – White flight in networked publics (on D2L)

OR

Jackson – We need to talk about digital blackface in reaction GIFs (on D2L)

Optional/additional:

Jackson & Banaszczyk – Digital Standpoints (on D2L)

**** IGNITE PRESENTATIONS THIS WEEK****

Week 3, Class 2: Thursday, May 23 – Surveillance, data, and privacy

Required reading:

Miller – Everyone is watching (on D2L)

**** IGNITE PRESENTATIONS THIS WEEK****

Week 4, Class 1: Tuesday, May 28 – MIDTERM EXAM

Required reading:

None

Week 4, Class 2: Thursday, May 30 – Death online: SNS memorials and memory

Required reading:

Hieftje – The role of social networking sites in memorialization of college students (on D2L)

Garde-Hansen – My Memories (on D2L)

**** IGNITE PRESENTATIONS THIS WEEK****

Week 5, Class 1: Tuesday, June 4 – Online activism

Required reading:

Explore Leah Parsons' Angel Rehtaeh Parsons public memorial Facebook Page (Facebook)

Powell – Seeking rape justice: Formal and informal responses (on D2L)

Additional/optional:

Keller, Mendes & Ringrose – Documenting unspeakable things (on D2L)

**** IGNITE PRESENTATIONS THIS WEEK****

Week 5, Class 2: Thursday, June 6 – Instructor Away, Class Plan TBA

Required reading:

Flew & Smith – chapter 6 (Games: Technology, Industry, and Culture)

Flew & Smith – chapter 9 (Internet Law, Policy and Governance)

Week 6, Class 1: Tuesday, June 11 – Youth mobile cultures & Digital Games and Apps

**** QUIZ #2 ** (first 20 minutes of class)**

Required reading:

Flew & Smith – chapter 4 (Mobile New Media)

Choi – Like, flirt, ghost: Inside the social media lives of teens (on D2L)

**** IGNITE PRESENTATIONS THIS WEEK****

Week 6, Class 2: Thursday, June 13 – New Media Looking Forward / Last Day of Class

****Submit Essays / No readings / Enjoy your summer!**

**** IGNITE PRESENTATIONS THIS WEEK****