University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
COMS 203 (L01): New Media
SPRING 2023: May 3 to June 15 (excluding May 22)

Lecture: MW 9:00 to 10:45am
Lab 1 MW 11:00–11:50am

In-Person

Instructor:	Chris Kerich
Office:	SS 254
Email:	chris.kerich@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	In-person, Mondays 12:00-1:00 PM; By zoom, Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 PM

Course Description
This course offers an introduction to the social, political, and cultural aspects of new media. It examines the social factors that influence the use of new media, as well as the effects of new media on different spheres of social life. Topics include, among others, the core concepts and approaches to new media; the history of new media and current developments; issues related to identity and representation in new media; participatory cultures; civic practices in new media; copyright and Internet law; and surveillance and governance in new media

Additional Information
The weekly schedule of topics and readings can be found at the end of this outline or on D2L. Students are responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline.

Objectives of the Course
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Identify and discuss the core concepts associated to the origins, history, and theoretical approaches to new media.
2. Develop a critical perspective concerning new media's history and the role of new media in society, economics, politics, and culture.
3. Analyze the course material and interrogate their new media practices and participation in digital cultures within the context of everyday lives through written assignments as well as lab activities.
4. Continue working on developing verbal and written analytic skills needed for undergraduate study

Textbooks and Readings
New Media: An Introduction, Fourth Canadian Edition by Terry Flew and Richard Smith (Oxford University Press, 2021).

Copies are available for purchase at the campus bookstore.

Earlier editions are not recommended as they are missing some content. Additional readings or links will be posted to D2L.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to complete courses, University of Calgary students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates, with current antivirus software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection, and a current and updated web browser.

If you need access to other software programs to complete assignments, your instructor will provide relevant information and links.

If you have technical difficulties, contact IT support services. See https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/student-campus-services-information-technologies-it.html

Policy on the Use of Electronic Communication Devices

I recommend you bring your laptop or tablet to lectures and labs for note-taking purposes. We will often also use your device for in-class lab activities. Do not use computer/tablet/ phone for purposes unrelated to class use.

Please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on the recording of lectures, which is outlined at https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html, and carefully review the section on Instructor Copyright at the end of this outline.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Assessed Components	Due
30%	**Quizzes (3 x 10%)** Students will participate in three quizzes throughout the course, each covering two weeks of material, and opening on Wednesday and remaining open for one week. These quizzes are open book, and will be completed on D2L. These quizzes will have 15-20 questions and should not take longer than 30 minutes to complete. The quizzes will not be timed. If for some reason the quizzes cannot be completed within the week they are available, contact the instructor to make alternate arrangements.	Quiz 1, open May 10 11:59 PM - May 17 11:59 PM (content: from May 3 to May 10) Quiz 2, open May 24 11:59 PM – May 31 11:59 PM (content, May 15 to May 24) Quiz 3, open June 7 11:59 PM – June 14 11:59 PM (content, May 24 to June 7)
27%	**Reading Responses (9 x 3%)** Whenever you are required to do a reading, at 11:59 PM that evening you are required to turn in a 250-word reading	May 8, 10, 15, 17, 24, 29, 31 and June 5 and 7 (11:59pm)

	response on D2L. These responses are your opportunity to reflect on the readings, point out interesting components, or connect them to your life.	
8%	**Participation** In-class participation will be evaluated through activities conducted during lab sections (tutorials). Valuable forms of participation include engaging in class discussions, actively listening, completing in-class activities, and offering productive and thoughtful comments.	Twice weekly.
5%	**Final Project Proposal** Students will submit a one-page proposal for their final project (via D2L). The proposal should identify the project topic, a preliminary thesis, clear conceptual connections to the course materials, and indicate whether the final project will be in essay format or a creative format (ex. zine, video, visual essay). The proposal should also include a bibliography of (at least) 3 scholarly sources (not necessarily from the course) that inform your project.	June 1, 11:59 PM
30%	**Final Project** Students will submit a final project that speaks to some topic area covered in the course. This can take the form of a 1000-1500 word essay or a creative project that examines, investigates, and otherwise addresses course material. This project should clearly build on the proposal and the instructor's feedback to it. More details provided in class.	June 16, 11:59 PM

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No
Note: You do not have to complete all the assignments and exams in order to receive a passing grade in this course.

Submission of Assignments
Please submit all assignments by uploading them to the designated D2L. Include your name and ID number on all assignments. Be sure to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to submit the proper version.

Private information related to individual students is treated with the utmost regard by University of Calgary faculty. Student assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty, and personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. Please note that instructors may use audio or video recording for lesson capture, assessment of student learning, and self-assessment of teaching practices.

Policy for Late Assignments
All assignments may be submitted one day late without penalty. Assignments submitted after that day may be penalized with the loss of 5% or a partial letter grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Student Accommodations
Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. For the full policy on Student Accommodations, see https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or another legitimate reason should contact their instructors.

Expectations for Writing
Department policy directs that all written assignments and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses 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 and proper documentation of research sources. For further information, please refer to the *University of Calgary Calendar* section on writing across the curriculum: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html

Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale
The following table outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department. of Communication, Media and Film. Final grades are reported as letter grades. For components graded using percentages or numerical scores, those values will be used directly in calculating the final course grade, while for components graded using letter grades, the letter grades will be converted to the midpoint values listed in the final column of the table below in calculating the final course grade.

In this course, final grades will be reported as letter grades. Each assignment will receive a numeric grade.

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%

*   Column 4: If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades. Column 5: 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. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages, A.I. content generators, or visual media.

Students must adhere to the instructor's course policy regarding the use of A.I. generated content in course work. Unsanctioned use of A.I. generated content in course work may be reported as academic misconduct.

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.

For information on citation and documentation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago, IEEE, etc.), visit the Student Success Centre resource links at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support or the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) Research and Citation Resources at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html

If you need help with your writing or have questions about citing sources, consult your instructor or visit the Student Success Centre, Taylor Family Digital Library. To book an appointment, go to https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support

Instructor Intellectual Property & Copyright Legislation
Course materials created by the instructor (including lectures, course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the same course section and term may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

To ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes & electronic versions of textbooks), all students are required to read the *University of Calgary Policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright* at https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy and the requirements of the *Copyright Act* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html). Students who use material protected by copy-

right in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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, including surveys, interviews, or observations as part of your university studies, you are responsible for obtaining research ethics approval and for following university research ethics guidelines. In some cases, your instructors may apply for course-based research ethics approval for certain assignments, and in those cases, they must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, please see https://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/arts-researchers/resources-researchers-and-instructors/ethics

Deferrals of Course Work and Requests for Reappraisal

For university regulations and procedures related to deferral of term work, see https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html

For information about deferrals of final examinations, see https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html

For information about requesting a reappraisal of course work or of a final grade, see https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html

Student Support Services and Resources

Please see https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines for information about student support services and resources, including Wellness and Mental Health Resources, Student Success programs and services, the Student Ombuds Office, the Student Union, and Safewalk. For resources on D2L, Zoom, Yuja, etc., see https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/resources-for-students/. (Find the topic menu under the icon to the left of the ELEARN banner.)

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings
More detailed information on topics covered, assigned readings, and scheduled activities will be posted on D2L.