

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

**Communication and Media Studies (COMS) 591 – Seminar 03 cross listed
with Science, Technology and Society (STAS) 591 L01**

**Senior Seminar in Communication/Integrative Seminar
Winter 2017**

Start & end dates (& dates excluded)
Tues., Jan. 10 – Tues., April 11 (excluding Feb. 21)
Lectures, days, and time; Tutorials, days, and time
Tues. 2:00-4:45

Instructor: Richard Hawkins

Office: SS 306

Office Phone: 403 220 6548

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:00 – 11:00, Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:00, or by
appointment

Course Description

This capstone seminar is an opportunity for Communication Studies students to review, synthesize, and integrate the knowledge they have gained during their studies and apply this to real-world problems. Through seminar discussions, close reading of texts, and independent research, students will gain a greater appreciation for how communication shapes and is informed by society.

The seminar will be organized around the theme “Media and the Future of Civilization”. Independent research, both individually and in groups, is a major component of this course. Students are expected to demonstrate that they have learned to engage with texts and arguments at a deep and sophisticated level.

Additional Information

N/A

Objectives of the Course

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Review and critically evaluate key concepts, issues, and debates within the field of communication studies;
- Apply these concepts to real-life issues and problems;
- Complete independent research that synthesizes ideas from their undergraduate studies and applies these to a topic related to the seminar theme.

Textbooks and Readings

The seminar will discuss one core reading:

Roger Silverstone (2007) *Media and Morality: On the Rise of the Mediapolis*, Cambridge: Polity Press.

Other materials and readings will be identified by students in the course of preparing their seminars and projects.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Students are welcome to bring laptops and other devices to class so long as these are used to aid student learning. During class, it is not acceptable to play games, answer email, surf the web, or engage in other non-class activities. Cell phone use is not permitted at any time. Inappropriate use of technology not only affects you, but it also distracts other students and undermines our goal of creating a respectful learning environment.

Assignments and Evaluation

Students will be graded based on the following components:

- **Core reading seminar (20%)** Working in small groups, students will prepare seminars based on the core assigned reading. Each group will lead a class discussion based on one of the Chapters in the reading. Seminar leaders should summarize the main points of each reading and provide insightful analysis. You will be judged on the quality of your summary and your ability to guide the class discussion.
- **Group presentations (35%)** Working in small groups, students will conduct independent investigations related to the seminar theme. This will involve each group in the identification and analysis of additional academic and related literature that is related to the overall theme of the course. The presentation should expand upon or present alternative views to those presented in the core reading, and/or situate the discussion in a specific context. An overview of the project and the findings will be presented to the class. ***Presentations will be 20-30 min in length. Along with their presentation, each group will submit a brief report (~10 pages) summarizing their work, along with a bibliography.*** These reports will be shared with the rest of the class on D2L.
- **Research paper (35%) (Due in Class April 11)** Working independently, each student will write a fully referenced research paper on a topic related to the seminar theme. The paper can expand on work the student did as part of their group presentation or can be on a new topic. Length: about 2000 words (excluding bibliography).
- **Participation (10%)** Seminars require active participation on the part of students. Participation is not measured solely by how often you speak; informed, thoughtful contributions carry more weight than merely frequent interventions. Students are expected to complete any assigned readings ahead of class, and to

participate actively by engaging with their fellow students and by offering thoughtful and constructive commentary during class discussions.

- **IMPORTANT:** The seminar method requires active participation by all students in all sessions throughout the Term. This is not an option. *A check-in sheet will be distributed each week.* Except for legitimate reasons – illness, emergencies or special circumstances of which the instructor is notified – participants who are absent for more than three sessions over the Term will lose the 10% participation mark.

Detailed instructions for each of the assignments will be provided on the first day of class.

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.

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.

Student Accommodations:

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_0.pdf .

Please note:

1. Students seeking accommodations for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors directly. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.
2. 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 another assignment or test.
3. For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html> and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.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. 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 & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. However, assignments, exams, and other work in this course will be graded using a combination of percentage and letter grades. Each assignment will receive a percentage grade along with an indication of which letter grade would be awarded.

The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department. If letter grades are used for an assignment or other course component, the percentage equivalent in the final column will be used for calculating the final grade:

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 <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 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/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 • 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

	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Tu Jan 10	Course Introduction and organization	N/A
2	Tu Jan 17	Core Reading Seminar – Group A	Silverstone Chapter 1
		Core Reading Seminar – Group B	Silverstone Chapter 2
3	Tu Jan 24	Core Reading Seminar – Group C	Silverstone Chapter 3
		Core Reading Seminar – Group D	Silverstone Chapter 4
4	Tu Jan 31	Core Reading Seminar – Group E	Silverstone Chapter 5
		Core Reading Seminar – Group F	Silverstone Chapter 6
5	Tu Feb 07	Core Reading Seminar – Group G	Silverstone Chapter 7
		Core Reading Seminar – Group H	Silverstone Wrap-up
6	Tu Feb 14	Group Presentation Mid-Term Check-up	N/A
	Tu Feb 21	Reading Week	
7	Tu Feb 28	Group Presentation – 1	Student selected readings
		Group Presentation – 2	
8	Tu Mar 7	Group Presentation – 3	Presentation Reports due on presentation day
		Group Presentation – 4	
9	Tu Mar 14	Term Paper Check up	
10	Tu Mar 21	Group Presentation – 5	Student selected readings
		Group Presentation – 6	
11	Tu Mar 28	Group Presentation – 7	Presentation Reports due on presentation day
		Group Presentation – 8	
12	Tu Ap 4	Group Presentation – 9	
		Group Presentation – 10	
13	Tu Ap 11	Final Seminar: What did you discover? Term Papers Due	