

**University of Calgary  
Department of Communication, Media and Film**

**Science, Technology and Society STAS 341 L01  
New Media, Technology & Society  
Summer 2015**

**July 6 – August 12 (except August 3)  
Monday and Wednesday 15:00 – 17:45**

**Instructor:** Dr. Mark Wolfe  
**Office:** SS 307  
**Office Phone:** 403-850-5770  
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**Web Page:** [http://people.ucalgary.ca/~mwolfe/Mark\\_Wolfe/index.html](http://people.ucalgary.ca/~mwolfe/Mark_Wolfe/index.html)  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment

### **Course Description**

Explosive growth and diversification of information-creating/sharing technologies, and the increased demands on our time and attention that they instigate, continue to shape the world. This course comprises a critical look at New Media and the extent to which they impose on individual, social and policy domains – in Canada and abroad. Daily assignments help develop this critical perspective that then capstones in a major collaborative project near the end of term.

### **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.

### **Textbooks and Readings**

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

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

### **Internet and electronic communication device information**

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

## Assignments and Evaluation

**Daily Individual and/or Group Assignments (40%):** Starting the week of July 6, students will complete a series of short assignments, individually or in small groups (1 per week; 4 in total). These assignments will be a mixture of questions requiring a short essay response and annotated reviews of the scholarly literature. Assignment topics will follow closely on class lectures and the textbook readings and in-class discussion. Each in-class assignment is worth 10%.

**Mid-term exam (30%):** Students on August 5 will write a 90-minute, in-class and essay-style examination aimed at assessing comprehension of key concepts from class readings, discussions and the group assignments.

**Final individual or group project (30%)** – This assignment, which may be completed by groups of 3 or 4 students, comprises a short research paper or presentation project due August 12. 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).

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** No

You do not need to complete all assignments and exams in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

**Submission of Assignments:** Please hand in your essays via email to: [mwolfe@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mwolfe@ucalgary.ca). Students MUST use the following file naming convention: SurnameAssignment.doc. Examples: SmithAssign#1.doc; WessonFinalPaper.doc

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.

### Policy regarding engineering exams scheduled during STAS 325 class times

There will be NO make-up assignments or final project allowances for engineering students whose professors schedule exams outside of their own class times and that consequently conflict with STAS 314 class times.

### 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>

### Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

Work in this course will be graded using percentage 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%

<b>1.70</b>		<b>C-</b>	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
<b>1.30</b>	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	<b>D+</b>	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
<b>1.00</b>		<b>D</b>	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
<b>0.00</b>	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	<b>F</b>	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> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or book a consultation in the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor TFDL, [https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing\\_support/consultations](https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/consultations) )

### **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 . . .
<b>ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)</b>	SS 102 403-220-3580 <a href="mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca">artsads@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calgary Police Service</li> <li>• Emergency Text Messaging</li> <li>• Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</li> <li>• Safewalk Program</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> <b>403-220-5333</b> <b>403-266-1234</b> <b>Emergency: call 911</b> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a> If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort ( <b>220-5333</b> ). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk</a>
<b>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT help line</li> </ul>	<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing Support Services</li> <li>• Student Services Mobile App</li> </ul>	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a>
<b>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Arts Reps</li> <li>• Student Ombudsman</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/">https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a>
<b>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling Services</li> <li>• Health Services</li> <li>• Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</li> <li>• Online resources and tips</li> </ul>	<b>403-210-9355</b> (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a> <b>403-266-HELP (4357)</b> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</a> 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

Will be posted to D2L