

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

COMS 203 (L01): New Media
SPRING 2022: May 4 to June 16 (excluding May 23)
Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00AM - 10:45AM
Lab: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00AM –11:45AM

Instructor:	Xenia Reloba de la Cruz
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Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	In-person, Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 PM; Thursdays, 12:00-1:00 PM

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the social, political, and cultural aspects of new media. 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 will be posted 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

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. Occasionally, you may be asked to use your device for an in-class exercise. Do not use computer/tablet/phone for purposes unrelated to class.

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. No audio or video recording is permitted in class without the prior permission of the professor.

Email policy:

I aim to answer all email inquiries as soon as possible during the weekdays, and within business hours. When sending me an email, please 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. 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. If, due to unexpected circumstances you are joining the class late, *please enter quietly, and take the nearest seat available*. Thank you for your consideration in advance.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Assessed Components	Due
30 %	Quizzes (3 x 10%) Students will complete three quizzes in-class (hard copy) throughout the course, comprised of 15-20 multiple choice- and true/false- questions. The quizzes are worth 10% each. The quizzes will be completed in 30 minutes at the beginning of class (ex. 9:10-9:40am) on the specified dates. Each quiz will cover the content of the weeks, as	Quiz 1, May 12 (content: from May 5 to May 10) Quiz 2, May 24 (content: from May 12 to May 19)

	indicated in the next column. No make-up quizzes will be given in the event of (unexcused) lateness or absences.	Quiz 3, June 7 (content: from May 24-June 7)
10 %	<p>Discussion Questions (2 x 5%)</p> <p>Students will answer two discussion questions posted on D2L throughout the term, each one contributing 5% to the total score for this item. The questions must be answered in 250 words (maximum). The expectation is that students offer a brief, critical reflection about specific contents. More instructions will be provided via D2L.</p>	<p>Discussion question 1 (May 18, 11:59 pm)</p> <p>Discussion question 2 (June 10, 11:59 pm)</p>
15 %	<p>Group Presentations (in tutorials)</p> <p>In small groups (3-4), students will design and deliver a 10-minute presentation on a topic related to the course content. Each group will send its presentation topic to the instructor beforehand. They will also submit a "Task List" that outlines each members' contribution to the presentation.</p>	Labs corresponding to weeks 5, 6 & 7.
10 %	<p>Essay proposal (300 words, max.)</p> <p>Students will submit via D2L/Dropbox a one-page outline (point form) of their final essay. The outline must include the general topic, a brief thesis statement, an example, and brief comments on how the example illustrates the thesis statement. Also, a list of references containing a minimum of three (3) peer-reviewed sources. More instructions will be posted on D2L.</p>	June 1, 11:59 pm.
35 %	<p>Short Essay (1000-1500 words)</p> <p>This assignment will develop the ideas outlined in the essay proposal, further elaborating on the thesis statement and the arguments based on the selected example. The essay should be 1000-1500 words in length, using Times New Roman 12-point font, 1.5 line spacing. Assignments submitted on deadline will receive detailed feedback, while assignments submitted after the deadline with an authorized extension will receive abbreviated feedback. Assignments submitted after the deadline without an approved extension will receive no written feedback and will be penalized as indicated in the Policy for Late Assignments in this outline.</p>	June 16, 11:59 pm

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Note: You do not have to complete all the assignments and exams to receive a passing grade in this course. If you miss a component of the grade, please, reach out your instructor in a timely manner.

Submission of Assignments

Please submit all assignments by uploading them to the designated D2L dropbox. Always 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. If, as a result of a mistake in your first submission you need to re-submit, please, clarify in a note that the current submission is the valid one.

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

Assignments submitted after the deadline 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. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require a medical note. For information on the use of a statutory declaration, see the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

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. In this course, point scores will be used to evaluate quizzes, discussion questions, presentations, and the final essay. Final

grades are reported as 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.

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 or visual media.

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.