University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication and Media Studies (COMS) 401.53 L01

Special Topics in Communication and Media Studies - Global Communication Governance

Fall 2021 Sept 7 – Dec 9, 2021 (excluding Sept. 30 and Nov. 7-13)

Tuesday and Thursday 14:00 - 15:15

Tuesday class will be a lecture class and will be <u>asynchronous</u>.
Thursday will be discussion and class activities and will be <u>synchronous</u>.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON COURSE DELIVERY

Asynchronous & Synchronous Course Components: Please read this outline carefully to see which course components will be offered synchronously (where you are expected to participate in person or online at the usual scheduled course time) and which components will be offered asynchronously (to be completed on your own time). Synchronous sessions hosted on Zoom can be accessed on D2L by clicking on the Communications tab and selecting Zoom.

Note: If you will not be able to participate in synchronous in-class or online class sessions owing to time differences or geographical location, then consult with the instructor to see if accommodation is possible or arrange to take this course in a future term.

Online Quizzes and Exams: You will be allowed a minimum window of 24 hours to access online quizzes and exams, but there may be a time limit for completing a quiz once you open it. Read the description carefully. The time specified for any timed online assessments includes 50% extra time.

Instructor:	Dr. Gregory Taylor
Email:	gregory.taylor2@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Available for email (or video) consultations Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Please email to set appointment.

Course Description
Our increasingly interconnected world rests upon laws, agreements and organizations that are responsible for maintaining the flow of information across the globe. Much of this system of governance is not new and has adapted to changing

technologies over decades; others are connected to the recent rise of internet-based technologies. This course explores this global dynamic in areas such as copyright, ICTs and development, international infrastructure, and global governance institutions.

Additional Information
The weekly schedule of topics and readings can be found on D2L.

Students are responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline.

Objectives of the Course
Through lectures, readings, class discussions, and course assignments, students will:

- Explore a range of theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of mass communications across the globe.

- Develop critical and analytical skills through the interrogation of texts, media, policies, organizations, corporations, and events.

- Examine the social, political, and economic impacts of contemporary global communications.

- Compare approaches to media governance across a range of regions.

- Evaluate the challenges faced by all policy makers as they address media problems of the early 21st century.

Textbooks and Readings
The following texts are available in e-book form via the Taylor Library:

Iosifidis, P. (2011). *Global Media and Communication Policy: An International Perspective*: Palgrave Macmillan UK.

Mansell, R., & Raboy, M. (2011). *The Handbook of Global Media and Communication Policy*: Wiley.

Ó Siochrú, S., Girard, B., & Mahan, A. (2002). *Global media governance : a beginner's guide*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Other readings will be posted to D2L.

Students are expected to have all readings completed prior to scheduled class times in order to contribute effectively during class discussions and activities.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to complete online (or blended) 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;
- A webcam (built-in or external), and a microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone.

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

Lectures are available on D2L but should not be downloaded or recorded without the written consent of the instructor. Cameras should be on for class discussions.

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
10%	**Participation** Students are expected to not only be in attendance every week, but to contribute significantly to the class discussions via individual comments, in-class group work activities, and short presentations. Oral participation will help solidify concepts for yourself and others.	Ongoing
20%	**2 X 10-mark short writing** Throughout the course, students will be required to write a total of two (2) responses to readings in the syllabus, submitted via dropbox on D2L. The schedule is largely determined by the student. The first assignment must be completed **within the first four weeks of class (by Oct 7)** but may be submitted in any of those weeks. This assignment is about your ideas – therefore the responses are due before the class in which the reading will be discussed. **Do not submit the response after listening to the week's lecture, it will be considered late**. Suggestions for topics are posted	Oct 7 and Nov 25

	with the weekly readings but student may choose another perspective. The class on **November 25** is the final class to submit the second short writing assignment but it may be submitted in any previous week.	
10%	**Essay Proposal and Annotated bibliography** Students must submit a two (2) page (500 word), double-spaced proposal regarding their final essay research project. Essay proposal submissions must include the following: a critical question concerning 2021 global communications policy; a possible thesis statement; and a rationale as to why you have chosen your critical question. Why is this area of research significant? Marks will be awarded for clarity of proposal and its relevance to the greater themes studied in the class. **(5 marks)** In addition to the essay proposal, **in a separate file**, students must submit a list of eight (8) academic sources from a variety of resources (books, book chapters, journal articles, etc.) *from outside the course syllabus*. Sources that are not academic (ie news stories) may be used but only as an addition to the eight academic sources. Each academic source must include a brief annotation *in your own words* of three-to-five (3-5) sentences, as to its importance for your potential final essay research project. **(5 marks)**	Nov 4 (start of class, as two separate files on D2L)
20%	**Midterm Exam** A midterm examination will test knowledge on all course readings up to this point in the course and content presented in lectures. Readings for the week of Nov 18 will be included. Midterms will be done on D2L and consist of 40 multiple choice questions. Students will have 90 minutes to write the midterm plus 45 minutes for technical problems. The exam is closed book.	Nov 18 at 2:00 pm and available until Nov 19 at 2:00 pm

15%	**Mock World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)** Students in groups of 2-3 will be assigned a country or region to represent at the WSIS meeting. Information sources will be provided but the group is encouraged to do some research on their own as well. Students are to assume the role of representatives of that country's government and present their position on the topics provided for the hearing. There will be a time allotted for debate after the presentations and groups are encouraged to question each other's position. Marks will be awarded for quality of information given at the meeting, presentation skills and points raised during the open debate. Groups are asked to prepare a brief submission via D2L outlining your country's responses to each question with relevant support information. This is not a formal essay and the responses to each question should be roughly a paragraph. The letter mark assigned will be based on a combination of class participation and your written submission. All group members are expected to participate in the mock WSIS.	Nov 30, Dec 2
25%	***Final Essay*** Students will submit a 2000-word (seven to eight page) research essay, excluding bibliography. The final essay must be printed in a double-spaced format (12 font), paginated, and with your name, course & professor, a title and a properly cited bibliography. Essays must have a clear thesis statement to be argued throughout the body of the text. Papers must demonstrate strong research in support of the thesis. Students will ask one critical question about the relationship between mass communications policy and current international concerns. As such, each essay must include a critical analysis of a particular	Dec 6 at 2:00 pm

	development in media and its policy impact, or potential impact, on the world or a particular country or region. The essay should build upon a theme identified in class discussion or in one or more of the articles/works under examination throughout the course, however the focus of the paper must be the student's own perspective. The point must be unified throughout and introduced by a clear thesis statement in the first paragraph.	
	Students should strengthen and develop their original argument while demonstrating clear applications of the resources cited. Sources outside the eight (8) scholarly works required may be used to support your thesis but must be from a credible source (if uncertain, ask Dr. Taylor).	
	All references must be properly and fully cited in a consistent format (APA or Chicago preferred). Essays must generally follow what was proposed in the preceding essay proposal assignment unless otherwise discussed with the instructor.	
	Written evaluation available upon request.	

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Note: You must complete all assignments and exams or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments
Please submit all assignments by uploading them to the designated D2L dropbox. 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
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. 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, all assignments shall be assigned numeric grades except for the Mock UN and final essay which shall be assigned a letter 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/desire2learn/home/students. (Find the topic menu under the icon to the left of the ELEARN banner.)

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

Please see readings and schedule on D2L.