

University of Calgary

Department of Communication and Culture

**Science, Technology and Society (STAS) 341 L01
German Approaches to Digital Economy and Culture
Group Travel Study May 03 - May 24, 2014
Spring 2014**

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Office Hours:	By Appointment

Course Description

How a People appropriate, integrate and tell stories about New Media reveals a great deal about their culture, their place in the world and how they imagine the future. Drawing on an initial survey of critical approaches to New Media study, this course keys on recent German contributions to New Media study in order to appreciate and assess its potential influence on the scholarship, practice and future of digital culture and economies going forward.

Primary objective of the Course

To advance awareness of the critical and operational differences in approaches to New Media, digital economy and digital culture as exemplified by non-German and German scholarship and industry activity in these domains.

Textbooks and Readings:

New Media: The Key Concepts. Nicholas Gane and David Beer. Berg Publishing, 2008
(Also available as a Kindle book for Kindle, PC and Mac Kindle readers.)

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

Assignments and Evaluation*

Short Pre-session Group Assignments (45%): For the week of April 28, students will complete three short group assignments (two during class time; Assignment #3 is due

May 15, 2014) based on assigned readings and class discussion. Each group assignment is worth 15%.

Journal (in Germany; 20%) – Students will maintain a record of on-going impressions and critical assessments of the culture, behaviour and attitudes around digital media as observed and engaged with while in Berlin and Leipzig. Due May 23, 2014.

Final project (35%) – This assignment, completed singly or in groups of 3 or 4 students, comprises a research paper that focuses on a New Media topic or 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) that addresses the key cultural and/or intellectual differences between German and non-German approaches to New Media study and practice. Due June 26th, 2014.

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

NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

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.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. 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 Scale

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

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. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

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

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:

<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>