

**COMM 3554: Social Implications of Communication Technology
Summer 2016**

Instructor:

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Office Hours:

MWF 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. or by appointment

Class Information:

MWF 10:20 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.
Journalism 342

Learning Management System (LMS):

I will use Canvas as the learning management system for this course. Please learn about the system at <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/canvas/getting-started-canvas-students>

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Course Description:

This course is an upper-level course on the social implications of communication technologies. We will cover technologies such as the Internet, including websites, blogs, wikis, online dating sites, and other forms of computer-mediated communication; mobile telephony, texting, and apps; social networking sites; online virtual worlds; and virtual reality.

Course Objectives:

- To explain the historical origin of the study of communication technologies.
- To apply communication concepts and theories to new media technologies.
- To understand the effects of media technologies on ourselves and society.
- To develop strategies for using and managing media technologies in our daily lives.
- To build the critical skills to analyze and interpret media technologies & their messages.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required readings are available on Canvas.

Recommended Reading:

The American Psychological Association (APA) Style Manual. For those of you pursuing a degree in social science, this book is what will dictate many of the expectations for your

research writing. It includes guidelines on citations, formatting, tone, etc. *APA style is required for assignments submitted in this class.* You may also find some information about formatting at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

EVALUATION

Grading: The course will consist of 400 total points

- Exam 1: 100
- Exam 2: 125
- In-class assignments: 75
- Short papers: 80
- Presentation: 20

Total: 400

I will use the standard OSU letter grade system. So, *there will be no rounding of final grades.* For example, you have earned 371.5 points, your final letter grade will be A–, not A.

Grade	Percent	Points
A	93-100	372-400
A-	90-92.9	360-371
B+	87-89.9	348-359
B	83-86.9	332-347
B-	80-82.9	320-331
C+	77-79.9	308-319
C	73-76.9	292-307
C-	70-72.9	280-291
D+	67-69.9	268-279
D	60-66.9	240-267
E	Less than 60	239 points or less

Exams:

There will be two exams consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. *The exam MUST be taken at the scheduled time.* Exam 2 will be cumulative. The dates are clearly identified on the schedule below; if you foresee a conflict with the exam time, you will need to reschedule your conflict or reconsider your enrollment in this class. Make-up exams will not be given except in cases of extreme, unforeseen, and convincingly documented emergencies (notification *within 24 hours* of the exam time is required) or official University related absences (instructor must be notified at least *one week in advance*). Your instructor reserves the right to determine what qualifies as extreme and what documentation is required. Unacceptable excuses include, but are not limited to: being out of town, having a note from the health center (flu excepted), oversleeping, having to work, not being able to find a parking space, car trouble, and flight delays or cancellations.

In-class Assignments:

There will be 17 in-class assignments including discussions, exercises, handouts, and unannounced quizzes. Each assignment will take five points. ***If you miss class, you will not be able to make up any in-class work outside of class for whatever reason.*** Your two lowest grades will be dropped (including if you received a zero on the activity because you were absent). Do not check with me in advance to see if there will an in-class assignment in the next class meeting.

Unannounced quizzes: Occasionally, you will be given quizzes over reading materials.

Short papers:

You will write five short papers. Each paper takes 20 points and I will drop the lowest grade. A detailed description of each paper will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class.

Paper overview

- Paper 1: *My daily life with communication technology*
- Paper 2: TBA
- Paper 3: *How to use communication technologies to solve a social issue?**
- Paper 4: TBA
- Paper 5: *Reflection paper*

**You are allowed to collaborate with ONE classmate on this paper and the presentation. Regardless of the level of contributions, both of you will get the same grades for the paper and the presentation.*

General Requirements

- APA format including the title page and the reference page(s)
- Error-free (or close to it)
- Microsoft Word document only; all other formats are unacceptable and will be considered late
- Should be submitted to Canvas before class on the due date (Do not send via email)
- **A corrupted file will get a zero. NO EXCEPTION.**

Late papers: Papers may be accepted late, but will receive a grade penalty based on the following. ***Do not ask for an extension without a penalty for whatever reason.*** If the dropbox does not accept your paper, it means you are 4 or more days late and will get a zero for that paper.

Assignment submission date	% of total possible points
1 day late	90% (10% deduction)
2 days late	70% (30% deduction)
3 days late	50% (50% deduction)
4 or more days late	No credit.

Presentation

You will make a short presentation (i.e. 2 –3 minutes) based on *Short Paper 3*. Instructions will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class. A make-up speech will not be given except in cases of extreme, unforeseen, and convincingly documented emergencies (notification within 24 hours of the exam time is required) or official University related absences (instructor must be notified at least one week in advance). Your instructor reserves the right to determine what qualifies as extreme and what documentation is required. Unacceptable excuses include, but are not limited to: being out of town, having a note from the health center (flu excepted), oversleeping, having to work, not being able to find a parking space, car trouble, and flight delays or cancellations. **Make-up speech(es) will be made on June 17 (after the Exam 2).**

Extra Credit:

You will have opportunities during the semester to earn extra credit by participating in research studies. Also, the best speaker will be given 4 extra credit points (if it is a team of two people, only the presenter will get these points). **You may not earn more than 12 extra credit points (3% of the course grade).** Information on how to sign up for the C-REP pool will be provided in class and will also be available on Canvas. Please direct any questions regarding C-REP to Aysenur Dal at dal.1@osu.edu.

Challenging a Grade:

I will not discuss your grades during class time or via email. To challenge a grade, you must meet me in my office ***within one week*** of the assignment being returned to you. When we meet, you must present your concerns ***in writing*** and attach the graded assignment. Please note that ***a challenge may result in grades being raised or lowered.***

Final Grade:

Your final grade is final. Do not ask me to reconsider your grade when the semester is over; applying subjective standards after the fact invalidates the standards applied to the class and is unfair to every student.

POLICIES

Attendance:

Only students enrolled in this section are permitted to attend class. Attendance (both physical and mental) is key to your success in this class. Your grade is largely contingent on your continued presence in class. Listen, take notes, and ask questions. Much of the material presented in lecture is not found in your readings. ***If you miss class for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to obtain notes and get any news or updates from a classmate; notes will not be provided and slides are not posted on Canvas.***

Classroom Civility:

We want to build a classroom climate that is comfortable for everyone. In a communication class, it is especially important that we (1) display respect for all

members of the classroom, including the instructor and students; (2) pay attention to and participate in all class sessions and activities; (3) avoid unnecessary disruption during class time (e.g., having private conversations, reading the newspaper, doing work for other classes, making/receiving cell phone calls, text messaging, etc. Please see Technology Policy below); (4) avoid racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom; and (5) avoid threatening behavior and negative participation. This is not an exhaustive list of behaviors; rather, they represent the minimal standards that help make the classroom a productive learning environment for all concerned. Especially ***(4) and (5) will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in such behavior may be asked to leave class, suffer grade penalties, and be reported to the Dean of Students and/or University police.***

Technology Policy:

Laptops, cell-phones, or other technology are not permitted to be used during class unless explicitly directed otherwise. Please turn your cell phone off completely before the start of class. Not just the ringer – ***completely off***. Any student who is observed consulting or using their phone or whose phone rings, beeps, or audibly vibrates during class will suffer grade penalties (1% of the overall class grade for the first offense; 5% for the second offense, etc.) and may be asked to leave class. You will be allowed to use laptops only when I direct you to use them. Any student who is observed using their laptops or tablets without my permission will suffer the same grade penalties noted above and may be asked to leave class. ***If you object to these policies or do not feel that you can adhere to them, please do not enroll in this class.***

Communications:

For this course, ***you are required to check your email and Canvas EVERY DAY.*** I will post class updates, extra credit opportunities, and/or additional materials as announcements on Canvas and/or to your OSU email. You are responsible for this information, just as you are responsible for information in class. ***Email should be used for quick administrative questions and emergency contact only. I do not discuss your grade over email.*** I highly recommend you to use your ***OSU account*** to contact me, because sometimes non-OSU emails go to the spam folder. If you do not hear from me within 24 hours, this may be the reason.

Academic Misconduct:

Cheating and plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3325-23-04) defines academic misconduct as “any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process” (p. 2). Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination.

- Do not use of someone else's ideas or expression (e.g., writing) without proper acknowledgment of the source. Proper acknowledgment (e.g., citation, quotation, footnote) should make clear both the ***extent*** and ***nature*** of the use. If you have

used someone's exact words, you should use "***quotation marks***" as well as a ***(citation)***. If a large portion of your writing uses another person's ideas, argument structure, or narrative form then you should make clear where the "borrowing" begins and ends. Note that *paraphrasing* someone, summarizing their *arguments*, or using their *ideas* are all plagiarism if the source is not acknowledged. Plagiarism is more than just using someone else's exact words. Also, be aware that "someone else's ideas" here includes textbooks, articles, web pages, your professor's notes, your roommate's assignment from another class, and ***anything else other than your own ideas and your own writing***. There is no outside source that it is acceptable to use without citing.

- In most instances, taking your own work from one course and submitting it in a different course is also considered academic dishonesty. It is simply not appropriate to claim that work was done for one class when in fact it was written for a different class. ***Check with your instructor if in doubt.***
- **Turnitin.com** Students agree that in taking this course, all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Any submitted papers may be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.
- Exchanging information with another individual during a test, quiz, or examination is clearly academic dishonesty, as is the use of any materials not permitted for the exam.

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). If COAM determines you have violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the rules of academic dishonesty – ***ignorance is not a defense***. If you have any questions about this policy or what constitutes academic misconduct, please contact me or visit <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>. ***When in doubt, consult your instructor before doing anything about which you are uncertain.***

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated. Students with documented disabilities can meet with me privately ***within the first three weeks of class*** to coordinate reasonable accommodations. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is an agreement between the instructor and the student. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. You will be notified in class, on Canvas, and/or via email when any changes occur. By staying enrolled in this class, the student agrees to abide by the policies described herein.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
5/11 (W)		Course introduction	
5/13 (F)		What is communication technology?	Industrial Society; Rheingold (1993);
5/16 (M)	Short paper 1	Concepts, affordances, & theories	Nass & Moon (2000); Treem & Leonardi (2012)
5/18 (W)		Concepts, affordances, & theories	
5/20 (F)		Psychological effects	Huesmann et al., 2013
5/23 (M)	Short paper 2	Identity & Selves	Turkle (2011) ch. 8; Fox & Ahn (2013)
5/25 (W)		Self-presentation & impression management	Toma & Hancock (2011)
5/27 (F)		Relationships, dating, & sex; review for exam 1	Fox & Andereg
5/30 (M)	NO CLASS (Memorial Day)		
6/1 (W)	EXAM 1		
6/3 (F)		Intergroup communication	Grasmuck et al. (2009)
6/6 (M)	Short paper 3	Social influence	Fogg (2002) ch 5
6/8 (W)		Health & politics	Braithwaite et al. (1999) Bond et al. (2012)

6/10 (F)		Privacy, legal & ethical implications	Scherker (2014); Merchant (2015)
6/13 (M)	Short paper 4	Emerging tech & future directions; review for exam 2	
6/15 (W)		Presentations	
6/17 (F)	EXAM 2		
6/20 (M)	Short paper 5		

Note: This is a class on technology, which is always changing. Additional readings will be added based on current events or emerging research.

I would like to acknowledge Dr. Jesse Fox and Dr. Michael Hanus for their contributions to the production and creating of this course.