

COMM 2540: Introduction to Communication Technology

Online Course

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Frampton

Office hours: 9:00am-11:00am EST Mondays & Wednesdays (and by appointment)

Email: frampton.22@osu.edu

Teaching Assistant/Grader: Min Seon Jeong

Office hours: 9:00am-10:30am EST Tuesdays & Thursdays

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Course Description & Goals

This course is an introduction to major communication technologies and how people interact with and use them. Over the term, we will discuss a range of older, contemporary, and emerging media. We will be considering and discussing the varying impact communication technologies have on society, relationships, and individuals.

- Students will learn about the characteristics, functionality, and usage of communication technologies; a focus will be placed on identifying the unique properties of new communication technologies.
- Students will increase their knowledge of communication technology adoption and policy making.
- Students will increase their knowledge of the societal implications of traditional, new, and emerging communication technologies. Content will focus on historic, political, economic, relational, and psychological effects.
- Students will apply existing theory and research findings to better understand (1) their own use of communication technology, and (2) the possible effects of their technology usage.

Course Technology

For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at <https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours>, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

Self-Service and Chat support: <http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice>
Phone: 614-688-HELP (4357)
Email: 8help@osu.edu
TDD number: 614-688-8743

Carmen

Carmen, Ohio State's Learning Management System, will be used to host materials and activities throughout this course. **Our class will especially make use of the "modules," "announcements," and "discussion" sections on Carmen.** To access Carmen, visit carmen.osu.edu. Log into Carmen using your name.# and password. If you have not setup a name.# and password, visit my.osu.edu.

Help guides on the use of Carmen can be found at <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmen>

If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor and visit the following site: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2061>

Secured Media Library

Some media materials for this course will be made available via the Secured Media Library. To access the library, go to: go.osu.edu/SecuredMediaLibrary

To obtain additional help with the use of the Secured Media Library, please email emedialibrary@osu.edu. A frequently asked questions document and support can also be found at <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/secured-media-library>

Carmen Connect

OSU recommends that we hold office hours through Ohio State's conferencing platform, Carmen Connect. Students may use the audio and video functions if a webcam and microphone are available. If not, there is still a chat function within Carmen Connect for the student to live chat with the professor or TA in the virtual office hours room.

Help guides on the use of Carmen Connect can be found at <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmenconnect>

Proctorio

OSU requires us to use Proctorio, an online proctoring tool, for exams.

Proctorio offers you flexibility to take your exams at the time and in the location of your choosing. Students are required to have a webcam (USB or internal) with a microphone and a strong and stable internet connection. During the course of an exam, Proctorio will record the testing environment. Therefore, students should select private spaces for the exam session where disruptions are unlikely and where recording devices can be enabled. Instructions for Proctorio use will be provided.

To use Proctorio, you must be **18 years of age or older**. Additionally, the tool has **limitations in its accessibility for students reliant upon screen readers and keyboard navigation**.

If you have concerns about using an online proctoring tool for the reasons listed above or in general, please work with your instructor to find an equivalent alternative.

Additional information on academic integrity at Ohio State and recommended proctoring options are available here: <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmencanvas/proctoring-options-ohio-state>

Basic Technological Skills, Software, and Equipment Requirements

- You need basic computer and web-browsing skills.
- You need to be comfortable accessing and navigating Carmen.
- You need **a working OSU email address and Carmen announcement notifications enabled**. I will often send emails or create Carmen announcements to provide updates to you regarding course materials, assignment due dates, and other important elements relevant to the class. Thus, it is important that you are able to receive these emails and announcements in a timely manner.
- You need access to a **high-speed internet connection**. Many elements of the course are presented online, so it is essential that you can gain access to these materials, whether on your personal computer or using the university's computers and resources.
- You need access to a computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+)
- You need a word processor with the ability to save files as **.doc, .docx, or .pdf**. Most popular word processing software programs including Microsoft Word and Mac Pages have these abilities. OSU students have access to Microsoft Office products free of charge. To install, please visit https://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=kb04733

Required Textbook

Westerman, D., Bowman, N. D., & Lachlan, K. A. (2017). *Introduction to mediated communication: Social media and beyond* (2nd Ed.). Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt. (ISBN: 978-1-5249-1234-5)

Note: You may purchase an electronic version of the text at roughly 50% of the cost

directly from the publisher: <https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/introduction-mediated-communication-social-media-and-beyond-0>

I will provide other required media content, materials, and readings via Carmen throughout the term.

Communicating with the Instructor or TA

Generally, you can expect me to reply to emails within **24 hours on weekdays**. I may take up to **48 hours to respond on weekends**. I will let you know if there are any circumstances that affect my ability to respond to emails for a particular day/week.

Please note that our course TA/grader, Min, is unable to respond to emails until May 17th. Until then, please direct all questions to me (Dr. Jessica Frampton, frampton.22@osu.edu)

Class Questions Discussion Board

If you have a question that you would like answered that would benefit the whole class (e.g., a question about clarifying assignment instructions, a question about using C-REP, a question about course content), you can post it on the Carmen discussion board titled “Class Questions.” I will be notified via email that you posted a question and will respond as soon as I am able. Your classmates might also respond to you if they know the answer.

Be sure to check previous posts in the discussion board to see if your question has already been asked and answered. Also make sure you check this syllabus and Carmen announcements to see if your question is answered there before posting.

This discussion board is **NOT** where you ask questions about your own grades. Grades should be discussed privately with me or Min.

Office Hours

If you wish to meet with me (Dr. Frampton) during office hours, there are several options. I am available via Carmen Connect (<http://carmenconnect.osu.edu/comm2540jrf/>), FaceTime, Zoom (<https://zoom.us>, my personal meeting ID is 870-260-4614), or Skype. Please email me ahead of time to let me know which platform you prefer.

Our class TA/grader (Min), is also available to meet with you to explain grades or answer questions about course content. She will post a link to her Carmen Connect room in an announcement. However, **she is unavailable for meetings before May 17th**.

Professionalism

Professionalism counts for 2.5% (5 points) of your grade. You earn these points by following the rules and guidelines outlined in this section of the syllabus.

Unprofessional communication is not tolerated in the workplace, nor will it be tolerated in this class. Remember that sarcasm does not always come across online. Please keep this in mind and remain civilized and respectful in all communications.

Discussion posts especially should be civil, respectful to everyone, and relevant to the topic we are discussing. Mutual respect, willingness to listen, and an ability to constructively communicate about alternative viewpoints are necessary skills for this course. Any disrespectful commentary will result in a grade penalty and possibly further consequences with the University depending on the severity of the offense.

If you are contacting the instructor or TA via email or some other platform (e.g., Carmen Connect chat), your tone and language should be professional. **We will not reply to messages that are disrespectful.**

Moreover, I love helping students with questions or concerns they might have, but we need to respect each other's time. As a result, if you schedule a meeting with me or Min outside of our regular office hours, we expect you to show up. If something comes up and you are unable to make the meeting, please email us ahead of time to notify us you will not be able to come to the meeting. We will do the same for you.

You should also be sure to check the syllabus, Carmen Class Questions discussion board, and Carmen announcements before emailing us to ask questions about due dates, which textbook to purchase, etc.

Assignments

Reading Quizzes

All quizzes will be administered on Carmen. They are designed to assess your understanding of the readings and other course materials. The quizzes will be open book/notes and cover material from the textbook and other readings within the week's module. Some of the material on the quizzes may reappear on exams. The quiz description in Carmen will state which material each quiz covers. **You have 1 attempt to take each quiz, and quizzes are timed.** Quizzes will be released with the new modules each week. Due dates are listed in the course calendar. **I will drop your lowest reading quiz grade.**

For the first week of the term, the syllabus quiz serves as a reading quiz.

Group Introductions

It can be tough to make new friends in an online course. So, I will assign you to a small group consisting of 9 or 10 students within Carmen. You will need to introduce yourself to your group. Specific instructions will be provided on Carmen during the first week of class. My hope is that group members will help each other answer questions about the course, compile notes, and work through the exam study guides together. You will also use these same groups for some discussion assignments.

Discussion and/or Reflection Assignments

Most weeks I will provide a prompt that requires you to do something online and write a brief reflection paper or discussion post. For instance, you might watch a video, play a game, or read an article. Then you will write a brief reflection paper or discussion post on the material based on a prompt I provide. The prompt will clearly state whether the assignment should be posted in a discussion board or turned into the appropriate Carmen drop box. Prompts will be released with the new modules each week. Due dates are listed in the modules. **Please be aware that when you write a discussion post, you will be required to respond to others' posts as well.** So, you will have to turn in your discussion post a few days early and respond to others by the usual 11:59pm Tuesday deadline.

I will provide a general rubric in Carmen describing the criteria used for grading these assignments, and **I will drop your lowest discussion/reflection assignment grade.**

You will need to cite your sources for these assignments. When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title of the source along with page numbers and/or the chapter title (if available). For online sources, include a link.

Midterm and Final Exams

The midterm and final exams will be administered through Carmen using a remote proctoring system, Proctorio. The exams will cover information from textbook readings and other material contained within the modules. They will feature some combination of multiple choice, true/false, and matching style questions. I will design the questions to assess your definitional understanding of course content and ability to accurately apply, interpret, and evaluate human communication and behavior through the lens of course concepts.

Extra Credit

Students may earn up to three points of extra credit by participating in the School of Communication's Communication Research Experience Program (C-REP). One hour of research participation is equal to one point of extra credit. A non-research participation alternative is also available if you do not wish to participate in studies or are ineligible to

participate in a research study. The C-REP Summer 2019 Student Guide will be posted on Carmen as soon as it is available, and it has more details about research participation. If you want to obtain an alternate assignment or need to unlock your C-REP account, you will need contact the C-REP coordinator, Shannon Poulsen, at poulsen.6@osu.edu.

Grading

Grading Scale & Point Distribution

A = 93-100%	B+ = 87-89.9%	C+ = 77-79.9%	D+ = 67-69.9%
A- = 90-92.9%	B = 83-86.9%	C = 73-76.9%	D = 60-66.9%
	B- = 80-82.9%	C- = 70-72.9%	E = under 60%

Professionalism	5
Reading quizzes (5 pts. each & your lowest score is dropped)	45
Discussion and/or reflection assignments (10 pts. each & your lowest score is dropped)	80
Midterm exam	30
Final exam	30
Group introduction	10
Total	200

Late Work

All quizzes and assignments for a particular week's module are due 11:59pm on Tuesdays unless otherwise noted. You have the entire week to work on the quizzes and assignments, so they will not be accepted late without documentation of extreme extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical emergencies).

You are required to take the exams on the scheduled days/weeks. Missing the midterm or final will result in 0 points. Make-up exams will only be allowed in cases of documented emergencies.

Computer/technology problems will not be considered an acceptable justification for late work unless you have a note from IT/OCIO staff documenting an actual Carmen issue that affected your submission. Please note that IT/OCIO staff are able to see when you last logged in, what Carmen pages you navigated to, and how long you were on each page.

A Note About Corrupted Files

You are responsible for ensuring the files you turn in are able to be opened. We grade the files we receive. If your file is corrupted so that we cannot open it, you will receive a 0.

A General Note

Graduating seniors (and other students) who “need” this course to graduate should work especially hard to ensure that they will pass this class. There will not be opportunities for you to re-take exams or re-complete assignments to raise your grade. It is your responsibility to ensure that you receive a passing final grade by working diligently and responsibly throughout the semester. No exceptions will be made.

Student Academic Services

Arts and Sciences Advising and Academic Services’ website provides support for student academic success. Information on advising issues such as tutoring, transfer credits, academic standing, and contact information for Arts and Sciences advisors can be obtained through this website. The site is: <http://advising.osu.edu/welcome.shtml>

Student Services

The Student Service Center assists with financial aid matters, tuition, and fee payments. Please see their site at: <http://ssc.osu.edu>

Diversity

The School of Communication at The Ohio State University embraces and maintains an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, experiences, and people. Our commitment to diversity moves beyond mere tolerance to recognizing, understanding, and welcoming the contributions of diverse groups and the value group members possess as individuals. In our School, the faculty, students, and staff are dedicated to building a tradition of diversity with principles of equal opportunity, personal respect, and the intellectual interests of those who comprise diverse cultures.

Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu

Academic Misconduct

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://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Copyright Disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course. **To be clear, you should not put any of my course materials on document-sharing websites without my permission.**

Accessibility Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know via email immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Calendar

I will make every attempt to adhere to these dates. However, these dates are subject to change. Please check Carmen (especially the announcements), which is where I will post changes if necessary.

****Weekly modules are released at 12:00am EST on Wednesdays. Unless otherwise noted in the module and/or below, all assignments within a certain week's module are due 11:59pm EST the following Tuesday.****

Week 1	Topic	Readings	What's Due?
5/8 – 5/14	Course introduction & Introduction to mediated communication	The syllabus, Textbook ch. 1, All content in the week 1 module	Group introductions, Syllabus quiz
Week 2			
5/15 – 5/21	The internet, Social media, Avatars, Agents, & Augmented reality	Textbook ch. 2 & pgs. 109 – 116 of ch. 7, All content in the week 2 module	Reading quiz #1, Discussion and/or reflection #1
Week 3			
5/22 – 5/28 (OSU is closed 5/27)	Adoption, Diffusion, Access, & Ability	Textbook chs. 3 & 4, All content in the week 3 module	Reading quiz #2, Discussion and/or reflection #2
Week 4			
5/29 – 6/4	News (fake & otherwise)	Textbook ch. 5, All content in the week 4 module	Reading quiz #3, Discussion and/or reflection #3
Week 5			
6/5 – 6/11	Surveillance, Security, Privacy, Governance, & Waves	All content in the week 5 module	Reading quiz #4, Discussion and/or reflection #4
Week 6			
6/12 – 6/18	Review & Midterm exam	Your midterm exam study guide will be posted by 12:00am 6/12	You must take the midterm exam between 12:00am EST 6/14 and 5:00pm EST 6/18
Week 7			

6/19 – 6/25	Online crowdfunding, Connection, & Activism	Textbook pgs. 167-169 of ch. 11, All content in the week 7 module	Reading quiz #5, Discussion and/or reflection #5
Week 8			
6/26 – 7/2	Technology, Relationships, & Deception	Textbook ch. 8 & pgs. 117 – 123 of ch. 7, All content in the week 8 module	Reading quiz #6, Discussion and/or reflection #6
Week 9			
7/3 – 7/9 (OSU is closed 7/4)	Education & Entertainment	Textbook chs. 6, 12, & 13, All content in the week 9 module	Reading quiz #7, Discussion and/or reflection #7
Week 10			
7/10 – 7/16	Stereotypes, Tropes, Identity, & Impressions	All content in the week 10 module	Reading quiz #8, Discussion and/or reflection #8
Week 11			
7/17 – 7/23	Moral panics, Bullies, & Trolls	All content in the week 11 module	Reading quiz #9, Discussion and/or reflection #9
Week 12			
7/24 – 7/30	Review & Final exam	Your final exam study guide will be posted by 12:00am 7/24	You must take the final exam between 12:00am EST 7/26 and 5:00pm EST 7/30