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## **Description/Objectives**

Course Description: COM 3332 presents new information and communication technologies by describing their role in, and how they are shaped by, contemporary society.

Course Goals: At the end of this course you will be able to:

- Summarize the history of, and future trends in, the development and use of information and communication technologies.
- Describe the national and international connections among economics, politics, the "information society," and information and communication technologies.
- Identify the dynamics shaping, and implications of, the "convergence" of information and communication technologies.
  - Discuss key consumer, social, ethical, and work issues related to the design and use of new information and communication technologies.
  - Summarize the theoretical approaches to understanding new information and communication technologies.

## **Requirements**

Lectures, readings, class discussion participation, and student online contributions are critical components for successful completion of this course. Completing the assigned readings before their corresponding lectures and discussions allows you to raise relevant questions, and to improve your learning experience and your class participation experience.

Readings, Lectures, and Activities: On average, you should plan to spend an average of nine hours per week on this course. It should take:

- three hours per week to attend classes;
- two to three hours for readings and their related assignments and questions;
- one hour for reading web materials and posting to online discussion groups, and;
- two to three hours for the preparation of longer assignments or review for tests.

Participation and Practice Exercises: Attendance and active participation in class sessions and discussions is an important part of the course. Class participation counts for five percent of your grade.

**Short Assignments:** There will be five short assignments and postings to be completed throughout the term (September 5, September 12, October 5, October 12, and November 30). These are based on readings, examples, and discussions. These short assignments together count for ten percent of your grade.

**Essay Assignments:** You will complete three essays during the term (September 19, October 19, and November 16). These will be approximately five to six pages (double-spaced) or 1,200– 1,500 words in length. The first essay counts for ten percent of your overall grade, while the second and third each count for fifteen percent

Papers should use a standard citation format. Assignments, unless otherwise noted, are to be submitted electronically and in paper format in class. Late assignments lose one letter grade per day (or ten percent of the numerical grade). The criteria for grading include: use of course materials; research; organization; style and presentation, and; analysis and insight. Spelling, punctuation, grammar, and clear writing will influence your grade as part of the "style and presentation" criteria. If you haven't read it, William Strunk & E.B. White's *The Elements of Style*, is a great writing primer and costs under five dollars.

Specific assignment instructions and questions will be distributed in class and will be available on the course web site.

**Tests:** You will take three tests (September 28, November 2, and December 13), composed of multiple choice and essay questions, drawn from assigned readings and lectures. These tests will cover the material listed in each section of the course (and will not be cumulative). Each test counts for fifteen percent of your final grade.

**Readings:** The main textbook for the course is:

Joseph Straubhaar and Robert LaRose, *Media Now: Communications Media in the Information Society* (Second Edition) (Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing, 2000). ISBN 0-534-76295-6.

Two supplemental texts provide additional concepts and arguments for use in discussions and essay assignments. They are:

Roger Fidler, *MediaMorphosis: Understanding New Media* (Thousand Oaks, California, Pine Forge Press, 1997). ISBN 0-8039-9086-3.

Andrew Shapiro, *The Control Revolution* (New York: Public Affairs/Century Foundation, 1999). ISBN 1-891620-19-3.

Additional readings and activities will be posted on or linked to the COM3332 course website.

**E-mail and World Wide Web:** You will need an FSU e-mail account and familiarity with searching and navigating the World Wide Web for research and communication during this course. You can arrange to forward your FSU e-mail to another account, but automatic inclusion in the course distribution list and access to some FSU library materials only works for FSU accounts.

## **Grading/Evaluation**

Grading: The following elements and weights will determine your grade:

Participation 5%  
Short Essay Assignments 10%  
Essay Assignment One (September 19) 10%  
Test One (September 28) 15%  
Essay Assignment Two (October 19) 15%  
Test Two (November 2) 15%  
Essay Assignment Three (November 16) 15%  
Test Three (December 13) 15%

Grading Scale:

93–100 A 4.0  
90–92 A– 3.75  
87–89 B+ 3.25  
83–86 B 3.0  
80–82 B– 2.75  
77–79 C+ 2.25  
73–76 C 2.0  
70–72 C– 1.75

### **Contact with Instructor**

Instructor: Stephen D. McDowell  
Office: 356D Diffenbaugh Building  
Telephone: (850) 644–2276  
Fax: (850) 644–8642  
E-mail: [smcdowel@mailers.fsu.edu](mailto:smcdowel@mailers.fsu.edu) (<mailto:smcdowel@mailers.fsu.edu>)  
Instructor WWW site:  
<http://mailers.fsu.edu/~smcdowel/> (<http://mailers.fsu.edu/~smcdowel/>)

### **Office Hours**

Office Hours: 11:00 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

### **Honor Code**

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility to:

1. Uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the students own work,
2. Refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and
3. Foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University community.

Click on [Academic Honor Code](http://registrar.fsu.edu/Grad_Website/ugr034.htm) ([http://registrar.fsu.edu/Grad\\_Website/ugr034.htm](http://registrar.fsu.edu/Grad_Website/ugr034.htm)) for a full statement of the FSU Code.

### **ADA Requirements**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should:

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center

(SDRC).

2. Bring a letter to the instructor form the SDRC indicating you need academic accommodations. This should be done within the first week of class.

(This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.)

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Assistant Dean of Students:

[sdrc@admin.fsu.edu \(mailto:sdrc@admin.fsu.edu\)](mailto:sdrc@admin.fsu.edu), [Disabled Student Services \(http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/disable.html\)](http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/disable.html), 08 Kellum Hall, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4066, (850) 644-9566.

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