COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a pre-major requirement for those of you who want to become Media Arts and Studies majors. Of course, it's open to everyone enrolled as an undergraduate at the university – I'm glad to have you, whatever your reason for taking the class. If you haven't decided on a major yet, I hope you choose Media Arts and Studies. I did, and I haven't regretted it. A career in the various media industries is literally the most wide-ranging and exciting professional path you can take in today's world.

Here's the description of the course in the official university bulletin: "Historical survey of broadcasting, common carrier, and related electronic media technologies, including the Internet. This course focuses on the social, political, and policy dimensions of the adoption and use of communication technologies. Special attention is paid to significant issues in contemporary public policy and practice, such as protection of privacy and personal information, information ownership, free speech, and censorship."

With all that said, what I hope to do for you is outline the technological origins and history of both interactive, "interpersonal" electronic media and non-interactive, “mass” electronic media; help you distinguish the differences/similarities among voice (phone-based), data, text, image, audio and video communications and the technologies that underlie them; increase your understanding of the convergence and integration of technologies and services that make telecommunications networks "work" and why regulatory agencies place limitations on most service providers; explain the interrelationship between communications technology and computer technology and its effect on both industries; and describe and discuss some areas of concern regarding the social impact of media technologies.

REQUIRED READING

Cause for celebration: you are not required to buy a textbook. All the readings and other material that you will need for this course are in electronic format and will be posted periodically on the class website throughout the course of the semester. With that said, I recommend that you make it a habit to read about media and technology issues regularly on the WWW. We can talk about this later.
EVALUATION EXPECTATIONS

Your grade for this course will be based on your weighted and averaged scores for a research paper, a midterm examination, a final examination, two critical reviews, and your attendance in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tech Attributes Test</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Paper: You will be writing a formal research paper (might as well get used to it) on a topic of your choosing within the very broad field of electronic interactive media. Part of your grade will be based on a number of preliminary steps you take – at intervals throughout the semester you will be expected to submit a topic paragraph for my approval, an annotated bibliography, and a two-page outline of the paper. The completed paper will be 9-10 pages in length and will conform to APA style. I will provide you with further guidelines and a list of possible topics via the MAS 201 website later in the semester.

Examinations: Both of the exams will consist of a number of multiple-choice and true or false questions, along with one or two essay questions. The final will not be comprehensive, and will cover only the second half of the semester. In the interests of fairness and higher academic success, I will provide you with a general indication of the nature of potential essay questions and whatever guidance seems appropriate before each exam.

Ten Technical Attributes Test: This test is not on the same scale as the two exams, but it qualifies as more than a quiz. The test will be based on the Ten Technical Attributes of Communication and Information Systems, as outlined by my good friend Andy Finn. The concept of the Ten Technical Attributes is an important one to grasp, since they apply to all forms of communication transmissions. You will be well served by taking very good notes as we cover this material. The test will consist of a mixture of multiple-choice questions, true or false questions, fill-in-the-blank statements, and at least one essay question.

Internet Paper: For this assignment, you write a reaction paper based on selected course lectures. This paper will require you to digest and relate the historical record of the Internet, examine the nature of what former vice president Al Gore called the Information Superhighway, read a funny science fiction story, and make your own informed but speculative predictions about Internet services and situations to come. A document detailing my expectations for the content of the paper will be posted on the website. We will discuss it at least a week in advance. Outside sources and references will not be required, but you may include any that you like with the proper citations.

Attendance: Attendance for each class is strictly voluntary. It's not my responsibility to make sure you come to class. After all, each of you is old enough to drive, vote, serve in the military, think for yourself, and bear the consequences of your actions. With that said, the consequences of your actions if you miss class will be the loss of five percent of your attendance grade for every absence, unless you notify me of your absence beforehand or have a verifiable excuse after the fact. Wise students will let me know when and why they have to miss class before they miss it.
Grading Policy:

A  Excellent work, 90 – 100
B  Good work, 80 – 89
C  Barely satisfactory work, 70 – 79
D  Inferior work, 60 – 69
E  Unacceptable work, below 60

Mid-term grades will be posted in myUK by the deadline established in the Academic Calendar (http://www.uky.edu/registrar/content/academic-calendar)

RESPECT FOR DIVERSE VIEWPOINTS

As a member of the most commonly discriminated-against group throughout human history (I’m left-handed), I consider the diversity that students bring to this class a highly valuable resource and one of the benefits of your college experience. During the semester, we will discuss topics related to communication technology and social change that touch upon aspects of social and cultural diversity, such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, socioeconomic status, politics, and religion. I encourage you to express your thoughts on those aspects relevant to your background, listen respectfully to your fellow students, and be open to learning from people who hold views different than yours.

THE USUAL WARNINGS

Make-up exams and late papers will not be allowed without a valid and verifiable reason. The definition of valid and verifiable is left totally to my discretion. It is required that all work submitted for a grade is the original work of the student whose name appears on it, and that the work was prepared expressly for this course. Any use of a cell phone or digital assistant or even the appearance of these devices during an exam will be construed as cheating. Any student caught cheating or copying from another’s exam or in any way plagiarizing from any source, whether published or not, will be sanctioned according to University rules. At the very least, he or she will receive a failing grade for the course.

Excused Absences

Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. Senate Rules 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable, but should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through the Ombud (859-257-3737, http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php).
Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused or unexcused) per university policy. Per Senate Rule 5.2.4.2, students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The professor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

**Verification of Absences**

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. Senate Rule 5.2.4.2 states that faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of illness or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to university-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.

**Academic Integrity**

Per university policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the university may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: [http://www.uky.edu/Ombud](http://www.uky.edu/Ombud). A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Part II of Student Rights and Responsibilities (available online [http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html)) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about the question of plagiarism involving their own work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate acknowledgement of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else’s work, whether it be a published article, chapter of a book, a paper from a friend or some file, or something similar to this. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be.

Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone. When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources of information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what,
where and how he/she employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain (Section 6.3.1).

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

**Accommodations due to disability**

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754 and via email at mailto:drc@uky.edu. Their web address is http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/

**CLASS SCHEDULE** (subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>Introduction to the course and to each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>Introducing Electronic Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>Introducing Electronic Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Ten Technical Attributes of Communications and Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Ten Technical Attributes of Communications and Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>Early History of Interactive Telecommunications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 14</td>
<td><strong>Ten Technical Attributes Test</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>Early History of Interactive Telecommunications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21</td>
<td>Telephony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Research Paper Topic Paragraph Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>How Electronic Mass Media Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 28</td>
<td>How Electronic Mass Media Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>How Cable and Satellite Systems Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
October 5  How Cable and Satellite Systems Work
October 10 Recording and the Digital Revolution
October 12 Recording and the Digital Revolution
          Research Paper Annotated Bibliography Due
October 17 Midterm Exam
October 19 Reflection on the Midterm Exam and the Meaning of Life
October 24 All About the Internet
October 26 How the Internet Works
October 31 A Logic Named Joe
          Extra Credit Quiz
November 2  From Internet to Superhighway: The Future of Interactive Services
November 7  Shopping on the Internet
November 9  Privacy on the Internet
          Internet Paper Due
November 14 The Dark Side of the Internet
November 16 Telecommunications Network Fundamentals
          Research Paper Outline Due
November 21 No class – take a break – you owe me one.
November 23 No class – Academic Holiday – Thanksgiving
November 28 Telecommunications Network Fundamentals
November 30 Telecommunications Network Fundamentals
          Research Paper Due
December 5  Wireless Networks
December 7  Class wrap-up/reflection/I'll make up something
December 14 (Thursday) Final Exam – 3:30 PM in 245 Whitehall Classroom Building