

COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: Fall 2025	COURSE NO: CMNS 253	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Society and Digital Media	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL: @capilanou.ca	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3.0
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lilwat7úl (Lil'wat), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE FORMAT

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

9 credits of 100-level or higher coursework including CMNS 100 or ENGL 100

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to a basic understanding of key aspects of digital media functionality, development and design as a basis for engaging with social, political and economic issues raised by digital media in everyday life. It aims to enhance students' digital literacy by connecting what happens off the screen to operations occurring behind the screen, connecting key social issues with the economic and technological foundations of digital media.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

There is no textbook for this course. Required and recommended course readings will be available as links on the course eLearn.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Identify, define and analyze key social issues arising from the design, development and diffusion of digital media.
- Identify, define and analyze how social forces shape the development, application and social impacts of digital media.
- Identify, define and analyse the basic technical foundations of digital media in relation to ongoing challenges and opportunities produced by their application in society.

- Identify, define and apply critical concepts and theoretical approaches to the analysis of social issues, challenges and opportunities raised by digital media.
- Identify, define and analyze regulatory, design-based and user-driven solutions to the issues, challenges and opportunities raised by digital media.

COURSE CONTENT

Date	Topic	Assignments
Module 1: The digital “revolution”		
Week 1	<i>Introduction: “Society” and “Digital Media”</i>	
Week 2	<i>Digital versus analog media: what’s the difference?</i>	
Week 3	<i>Digital media as “formal systems”: a mathematical reality</i>	
Week 4	<i>Networking as technical and social process</i>	
Week 5	<i>The promise of digital media: democratisation</i>	
Week 6	<i>The perils of digital media: technocracies</i>	
Week 7	<i>Catch-up and midterm examination</i>	
Module 2: Digital futures: Issues, potentials & challenges		
Week 8	<i>Digital values & social problems: the politics of “disruption”</i>	
Week 9	<i>Deconstructing labour: the app-based society & the gig economy</i>	
Week 10	<i>Deconstructing labour: automation and artificial intelligence</i>	
Week 11	<i>Media pathologies: digital media and mental health</i>	
Week 12	<i>Media pathologies: digital media, discrimination and equity</i>	
Week 13	<i>Digital futures: decolonised media, decentralised power?</i>	
Week 14-15	<i>Final exam period</i>	

EVALUATION PROFILE

Assessment	Value
Assignment 1 – reading journal (10 @ 3% each)	30%
Assignment 2 – research project	30%
Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	15%
Participation & professionalism	10%
TOTAL	100%

Assignment 1 – reading journal (10 @ 3% each = 30%) students complete a short worksheet in connection with weekly readings and in-class exercises and discussions. There will be 11 of these through the semester in connection with required readings from weeks 2-6 and weeks 8-13. Students need only submit 10 of the 11.

Assignment 2 – research project (30%) students will complete (in groups of 2 or 3) a substantial research project addressing one of the key issues in digital media addressed in the course. Projects should contain both a written and presentation component, but students will have an opportunity to emphasise either the presentation component (lengthy in-class presentation, narrated slideshow or video documentary, with a shorter written submission) or the written component (research paper, report, with a shorter presentation).

Midterm and final examinations (15% each) these will be online take-home exams, consisting of short-answer questions. Students will receive review materials for each exam one week in advance.

Participation and Professionalism (10%) grades are based on the consistency, quality, and frequency of contributions to class discussions. Consistency means attending every class, maintaining a positive and respectful presence in the classroom, and actively contributing to discussions on a regular basis. Quality means demonstrating respect for peers and their contributions, listening attentively during lectures and when other students are speaking, and participating in all activities with an open and inquisitive mind.

GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete “I” are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date listed. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor beforehand.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

*** Accommodations can be made to honour community needs and traditional practices.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note taking only.

On-line Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or eLearn; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-services/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information:

<https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure (found on Policy page <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.