

**SEMS 2500-108: Digital Media in an International Context**  
**Spring 2013**  
**(B Days, 1050-1205)**

**Discipline: Media Studies**

**Lower Division**

**Faculty Name: Emily Acosta Lewis**

**Pre-requisites:** none

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to new communication technology and its influence on society from an international perspective. These forms of communication are constantly changing, as are the impact that these technologies have on us, society, and the world. This course will focus on examining new communication technologies in the countries that we will visit, including the different ways in which these technologies are used; censorship and laws regarding these technologies; and how each country's new communication technology landscape compares and contrasts with America's. This course will emphasize the theoretical models that are relevant to new communication technology as well as the practical applications and implications of new communication technology on communication. A number of new communication technology areas such as computer-mediated communication, social networks, blogs, and online gaming will be explored.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Provide students with a general understanding of research on new communication technology use and effects
- Give students a set of tools for thinking critically about the role of new communication technology in our lives and the lives of people internationally
- Familiarize students with differences in new communication technology on a global level
- Give students the opportunity to critically evaluate the role and uses of new communication technology across cultures

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

**AUTHOR:** Paul Levinson

**TITLE:** New New Media

**PUBLISHER:** Allyn & Bacon

**ISBN #:** 0205865577

**DATE/EDITION:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

**TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE**

**Class/Date      Topic**

B1: Jan. 12      Introduction, syllabus review, assignments, and expectations  
Readings: Levinson preface

B2: Jan. 14      A history of new media  
Readings: Levinson Chapter 1

- B3: Jan. 18 Social networking  
Readings: Levinson, Chapter 2
- B4: Jan. 20 Blogging and micro-blogging  
Readings: Levinson, Chapter 3 & 6
- B5: Jan. 24 Video sharing & Wikipedia; Discuss new media in Japan  
Readings: Levinson, Chapter 4 & 5; Japan new media article
- B6: Jan. 26 Online news & Podcasts; **Mini-exam 1**  
Readings: Levinson, Chapter 8
- B7: Feb. 2 Virtual game worlds; Discuss new media in China  
Readings: Flew, Chapter 4; China new media article
- B8: Feb. 10 Podcasting, livecasting, and mobile communication; Discuss new media in Vietnam  
Readings: Safko, Chapter 15 (pgs. 279-289); Levinson, Chapter 7; Vietnam new media article
- B9: Feb. 18 Public relations and new media; Discuss new media in Singapore  
Readings: Flew, Chapter 6; Singapore new media article
- B10: Feb. 22 Advertising and new media  
Readings: Keane article; McCarthy article
- B11: Feb. 24 Computer-mediated communication; Discuss new media in Burma  
Readings: Valkenburg & Peter (2009); Burma new media article
- B12: Mar. 3 Social networking effects on relationships; Discuss new media in India  
Readings: Christakis & Fowler (2009); Toma (2010); India new media article
- B13: Mar. 12 Cyberbullying  
Readings: Levinson, Chapter 9; Maag article; Dooley, Pyzalski, & Cross (2009)
- B14: Mar. 14 Online dating; **Mini-exam 2**  
Readings: McKenna, Green, & Gleason (2002); Toma, Hancock, & Ellison (2008)
- B15: Mar. 17 New media and learning; Discuss new media in Mauritius  
Readings: Fried (2008); Mauritius new media article
- B16: Mar. 20 Health information online; **field lab paper due**  
Readings: Atkinson, Saperstein, & Pleis (2009)
- B17: Mar. 23 Thin ideal imagery online; Discuss new media in South Africa  
Readings: Bardone-Cone & Cass (2007); South Africa new media article

- B18: Mar. 31 Effects of video games  
Readings: Anderson et al. (2010); Ghana new media article
- B19: Apr. 2 Political new media; Discuss new media in Ghana & Morocco  
Readings: Levinson, Chapter 10; Morocco new media article
- B20: Apr. 5 Class presentations (groups 1-2); Final exam review
- B21: Apr. 12 **Final Exam**
- B22: Apr. 15 Class presentations (groups 3-6)
- B23: Apr. 23 Class presentations (groups 7-10)

## FIELD WORK

**FIELD LAB** (*At least 20 percent of the contact hours for each course, to be led by the instructor.*)  
The field lab will take place on the first day in Cochin, India, which will be Wednesday, March 6 and is absolutely mandatory. Students will be briefed on ship about the day's activities, expectations, and details about assignments. Students will then visit a local media outlet for a tour and a lecture on internet censorship in India. Students will then be taken to a local movie theater where they will watch a Bollywood movie. Students will then take time over lunch to discuss internet censorship in India; discuss differences between the United States and India; reflect on the intersect of new media and Bollywood and how it's being used for social change and awareness.

## Academic Objectives:

- learn about new media use in India
- compare and contrast new media censorship in India to America
- learn about the intersection of Bollywood and new media

## METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

Components	Number of Points
Field Assignments	35
Field lab paper	10
2 research activities	10
Journal entries	15
Mini exams	20
Class 6	10
Class 12	10
Final Exam	20
Group presentation	15
Participation	10
Total	100

## **Assignments and participation**

Group presentation. You and your group members will be responsible for making one 15-20 minute presentation that connects a real-world new media issue, problem, or content area to new media in two countries that we visit (cannot include India or the US). You can choose any topic related to new media that interests you, such as political communication; new media advertising; or any other topic approved by me. Each group will be responsible for doing some research in two different countries that we are visiting. You need to bring some examples or evidence of your topic from that particular country (e.g. photos of new media use, printout from website, etc.) to use as examples. You should use the theories and frameworks discussed in the course to analyze the particular new media topic. Group presentations will be given during classes 20, 22, and 23.

Written assignments. The written assignments for this class are designed to work together to help you learn how to develop critical arguments about how and why we use new media the way we do and how the countries we are visiting use new media. All papers must be typed, spell-checked and proofread. No hand-written assignment will be accepted. In your papers, you must properly attribute the work(s) that you refer to, following APA style.

Field Assignments. You will write one 4-page paper and two 2-page papers regarding activity in ports. The first paper will be a 4-page response paper where you discuss what you learned from the field lab and use theories from class to evaluate new media in India. The field lab paper is due by class 16. The two 2-page reports must include an in-port research activity where you analyze a particular aspect of new media use (websites, cell phones, social networking etc.) and discuss what you observed and try to observe a pattern across the new media use in the port. You can use these two research activities as part of your group presentation. The two research activities are due within two class periods of the last day in the port of selection and both must be turned in by class 19 (which means you cannot use Ghana or Morocco for these activities).

Journal entries. Another component of this course will be keeping a digital journal about your experiences related to new media on the ship. You should think critically about your lack of new media use while on the ship. You can talk about things that surprised you about being disconnected; how much time you spent in port with new media; feelings you have etc. You will need to write 10 journal entries throughout the semester on a somewhat weekly basis. The following are the due dates for the entries: B3; B6; B7; B8; B11; B12; B14; B17; B19; B22.

Participation. Your participation grade will be assigned based on both the amount and quality of your participation in class. You may lose points on your participation grade for unexcused absences, regular tardiness, and disrespect of other students. Also, if you never speak in class, you cannot expect to receive full points for participation.

## **ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS**

AUTHOR: Lon Safko

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Live from Anywhere-It's Livecasting

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Social Media Bible

VOLUME:  
DATE: 2010  
PAGES: 279-289

AUTHOR: Terry Flew & Richard Smith  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE:  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: New Media: An Introduction  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 2011  
PAGES: 72-92

AUTHOR: Carolina McCarthy  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Facebook: Our targeted ads aren't creepy  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: The Social-CNET news  
VOLUME:  
DATE: June 18, 2009  
PAGES:

AUTHOR: Meghan Keane  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Study: People find large targeted ads more creepy than effective  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: econsultancy.com  
VOLUME:  
DATE: June 20, 2010  
PAGES:  
AUTHOR: Valkenburg, P. M. & Peter, J  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: The effects of Instant Messaging on the quality of adolescents' existing friendships: A longitudinal study  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Journal of Communication  
VOLUME: 59  
DATE: 2009  
PAGES: 79-97

AUTHOR: N.A. Christakis & J. H. Fowler  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: This hurts me as much as it hurts you  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Connected: The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives*  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 2009  
PAGES: 95-134

AUTHOR: Toma, C.L.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Affirming the self-through online profiles: Beneficial effects of social networking websites  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Human Factors in Computing Systems*  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 2010

PAGES:

AUTHOR: Maag, C.

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: When the bullies turned faceless

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: The New York Times

VOLUME:

DATE: 12/16/2007

PAGES:

AUTHOR: Julian Dooley, Jacek Pyzalski, Donna Cross

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Cyberbullying versus face to face bullying

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Journal of Psychology

VOLUME: 217

DATE: 2009

PAGES: 182-188

AUTHOR: McKenna, K. Y. A., Green, A. S., & Gleason, M. E. J.

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Relationship formation on the Internet: What's the big attraction?

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Journal of Social Issues

VOLUME: 58

DATE: 2002

PAGES: 9-31

AUTHOR: Toma, C. L., Hancock, J. T., & Ellison, N. B.

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Separating fact from fiction: Deceptive self-presentation in online dating profiles.

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin

VOLUME: 34

DATE: 2008

PAGES: 1023-1036

AUTHOR: Fried, C. B.

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: In-class laptop use and its effects on student learning

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Computers & Education*

VOLUME: 50

DATE: 2008

PAGES: 906-914

AUTHOR: Atkinson, N.L., Saperstein, S.L., and Pleis, J.

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Using the Internet for health-related activities: Findings from a national probability sample

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Journal of Medical Internet Research

VOLUME: 11

DATE: 2009

PAGES:

AUTHOR: Bardone-Cone, A. M. & Cass, K. M.

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: An experimental examination of website exposure and moderating effects  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *International Journal of Eating Disorders*  
VOLUME: 40  
DATE: 2007  
PAGES: 537-548

AUTHOR: Anderson et al.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Violent video game effects on aggression, empathy, and prosocial behavior in Eastern and Western countries: A meta-analytic review  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Psychological Bulletin*  
VOLUME: 136  
DATE: 2010  
PAGES: 151-173

### **ADDITIONAL READINGS**

Japan article: Japan sizes up social media as an emergency response tool, David Vranicar

China article: Internet censorship in China-Breaking world internet censorship rules, New York Times

Vietnam article: Internet censorship tightening in Vietnam, Asia News

Singapore article: Asian brands limit role of social media, Ogilvy & Mather

Burma article: Internet unshackled, Burmese aim venom at ethnic minority, Thomas Fuller

India article: Rise of new media spurs major change in Bollywood's India, Michael Addelman

Mauritius article: Telecommunications in Mauritius, Wikipedia

South Africa article: New media usage among youth in South Africa, Antoinette Basson

Ghana article: New media practices in Ghana, Araba Sey; How Ghana is using social media to promote voter registration, Sonia Paul

Morocco article: Morocco: Stop internet censorship, Sami Ben Gharbia; Morocco's video sniper sparks new trend, Layal Abdo

### **HONOR CODE**

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University's honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager's Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.” The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed “[signed].”