

# *Communication through the Ages*

## Meeting Times/Locations Spring Term 2013

**HIST345-002:** Saturdays 9:00am – 11:55am in KUPF 108

**HIST345-102:** Thursdays 6:00 – 9:05pm in KUPF 208

**Instructor:** Lisa Nocks, PhD

### Contact Information

**My Office:** CULLIMORE 322    **NJIT Voicemail:** 973.596.5360    [nocks@njit.edu](mailto:nocks@njit.edu)

### Office Hours:

**Wednesdays 4:15-5:45pm – Thursdays 4:15-5:45pm**

**Thursday afternoons and Sat 12-1pm by appointment only**

### REQUIRED BOOK:

Kovarik, Bill. *Revolutions in Communication: Media History from Gutenberg to the Digital Age*. (Continuum 2011) ISBN: 978 1 4411 1460 0

**ADDITIONAL READINGS:** Additional required readings and viewings will be available on Moodle as Word documents, PDFs, or hyperlinks

### OVERVIEW

- We explore the history of communication technologies from antiquity through the present within a broader social context in which the value of technical innovations by engineers and inventors is weighed against systems of control over the dissemination of information.
- Documents include historical texts, archival materials, advertisements, and broadcast and digital media.
- We consider the many unintended consequences of innovation in communication technologies.
- We discuss the purposes and methods of communication.
- We discuss how information is filtered to the public, and how it is received.
- We cover new media, and debate whether media owners control our culture, or if the intended use of mediated information is subverted by the users to their own design.
- Requirements: readings, viewings, in-person and Moodle forum participation, one class presentation, quizzes.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To be able to:

- **Appreciate** the variety of ways that human beings have adapted tool making to interpersonal communication.
- **Recognize** the cultural, political, and economic forces at work in this history.
- **Demonstrate** through quizzes, oral presentations, online and in-class discussions that you can **recognize, articulate, and analyze** the impact of communication technologies on society throughout history.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:** Course grades are determined from a combination of:

- Short answer quizzes
- Short essays
- Class presentation
- Regular participation in class discussions

**NOTE:** This is a 300 level course. To get the most out of this course, you must maintain an upper college level reading, writing and participation level.

*If you need extra help, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or to see me during office hours.*

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Assignments, activities and supporting lecture notes and resources will be posted on Moodle weekly. Check Moodle twice per week for updates. **Forum and homework assignments are not optional.** They are counted as part of your attendance/participation grade.

**CALENDAR:** A calendar for each section will be posted on Moodle. The first week's reading assignment is to read the introduction to the assigned book, which covers the historiography of communication history. See Moodle for any updates to the course calendar in this syllabus.

**CLASS PRESENTATIONS:** See Moodle for a separate document, "Class Presentation" for directions.

## GRADING

**AVAILABLE GRADES:** A B+ B C+ C D F

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION:**

Attendance -----	10%
Participation* -----	10%
Class presentation-----	15%
Quizzes (4 ea @ 15%)-----	60%
Misc. Homework -----	05%

**\*Please note:** Showing up, sitting quietly or texting your friends does not count. For full credit, you must attend regularly, stay for the whole session, **and** regularly **participate in discussions and class exercises and Moodle forums.**

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**\* up to 10 points for REGULAR WEEKLY participation in discussions**

**POINT EQUIVALENTS:** 91-100 (A) ♦ 86-90 (B+) ♦ 80-85 (B) ♦ 76-79 (C+) ♦ 70-75 (C) ♦ 60-69 (D) ♦ <60 (F) ♦ No submission= 0

**THE PURPOSE OF CLASS DISCUSSIONS:** to clarify readings, review concepts, exchange ideas, and inspire each other.

- Lively discussions always make a course more interesting.
- You are encouraged to bring to class relevant articles or news to share with the class.
- Part of the objective of a college education is to learn to think critically and analytically, and to express your thoughts clearly. That takes practice.

**NOTE:** Provided that you are respectful to your classmates and instructor, you are *always* welcome to contribute to class discussions. It is not necessary to agree with your teacher or classmates to contribute to discussions. Disagreeing does not lower your grade.

## NJIT HONOR CODE:

### **A significant element in your professional and personal development is honesty and integrity.**

Following the guidelines of the Academic Honor Code of NJIT is good practice. Turning in a paper that includes plagiarism, or that is written by someone else and represented to be yours, or cheating on an examination will result in an F grade for the assignment and possibly for the semester, as well as your incurring administrative sanctions.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** To receive an excused absence, you must provide appropriate documentation when you return from your absence; otherwise your absence is not excused. 3 unexcused absences results in the loss of a grade (e.g. Final grade earned: A/Posted Grade: B) (Leaving the area early for spring break or other holiday breaks is not excused.)

### Examples of Documentation:

- A doctor's note (prescriptions and appointment cards do not count.)
- A copy of an employer's memo to you noting the day/time of event requiring you to miss class.
- An email to me directly from another instructor or advisor explaining why it is necessary to miss my class and noting the day/time of class to be missed.
- A document that authenticates your required absence to attend a funeral.
- Proof of military deployment.

**UNEXCUSED LATE ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS:** Grade reduced ½ step for each 48 hours after due date. (e.g.: earned: B=Grade posted: C+) Absent for presentation date: 0.

## HOUSEKEEPING

- Please **turn cell phone ringers off or to vibrate.** Turn off any other electronic equipment that makes noise before entering class. If you get an emergency call, please quietly leave the room.
- Please be considerate of others who use the classroom after us, and **remove all papers and food/beverage containers you brought in** when you leave.
- **If I must cancel class meeting:** I will let you know ahead of time, OR I will contact the History department secretary and post a message. **ALSO: check Moodle and email before class for emergency cancellations.**  
(REQUEST: **If you would like, you can volunteer to give me your mobile phone # so you can be the contact person in the event of an emergency cancellation (e.g., due to NJ Transit breakdowns.)**)
- **If I am not present at class time:** WAIT a FULL 15 minutes, then take attendance; leave after 20 minutes. Leave attendance sheet in my mailbox in the history department office in Cullimore Hall.
- **Please only use your laptop for work related to this course during our class meetings.** (I may sometimes ask you to use your laptop in class for relevant exercises.)

*Have a productive and fun semester!*

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**Find the Calendar of readings and activities below.**

Wk	DATE	ACTIVITIES	READ FOR NEXT MEETING: Note: occasional short homework assignments will be announced.
1	Jan 24/26	Overview of course New terms and concepts in Communication.	Kovarik Introduction
2	Jan-31 Feb-2	Of terms and types of comm.. Kovarik on Comm History; review	Kovarik through Chapter 1( to p45)
3	Feb 7/9	<b>Unit A Quiz-Early Comm., Types of Comm.</b> <b>Unit I Introduction</b> <b>Printing and Social Movements</b>	Kovarik Chapter 2 Additional reading TBA
4	Feb 14/16	<b>Viewing TBA</b>	Kovarik Ch 3 Additional reading TBA
5	Feb 21/ 23	Review and Class presentations	Kovarik Ch 4 Additional reading TBA
6	Feb 28 Mar 2	<b>Unit I Quiz</b> <b>Unit II Introduction: Visual Comm.</b>	Kovarik Ch 5
7	Mar 7/9	Class presenations	Kovarik Ch 6 Additional reading TBA
8	Mar 14/16	Review; Video; Class presentations	
9	Mar 21/23	<b>SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS</b>	
10	Mar 28/30	<b>Unit II Quiz on Visual Comm</b> <b>Unit III Introduction: Electronic Comm</b>	Kovarik Ch 7-8
11	Apr 4/6	Class presentations	Kovarik Ch 9 Additional reading TBA
12	Apr 11/13	Review; Class presentations	Study
13	Apr 18/20	<b>Unit III Quiz</b> <b>Unit IV Introduction: Digital Age</b>	Kovarik Ch 10+11
14	Apr 25/27		Kovarik Ch 12
15	May 2/4	<b>Unit IV (Last) Quiz and discussion</b>	
		<b>Have a great summer - Congrats to Grads!</b>	

**NOTE: I reserve the right to modify the schedule on account of weather closings or class progress.**

NJIT Spring 2013 Calendar:

Jan. 21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No classes
<b>Jan. 22</b>	<b>First day of Spring classes</b>
Jan. 22	Schedule Change Fee Begins (\$25)
<b>Jan. 28</b>	<b>Last day to add/drop a class</b>
Jan. 28	Last day for 100% <a href="#">refund</a>
Jan. 29	W grades posted
Feb. 4	Last day for a 90% <a href="#">refund</a> based on partial withdrawal
Feb.18	Last day for a 50% <a href="#">refund</a> based on a complete withdrawal
Mar. 11	Last day for a 25% <a href="#">refund</a> based on complete withdrawal
<b>Mar. 17-24</b>	<b>Spring Recess-No Classes Scheduled University Open (Sunday to Sunday – no Sat. 3-23)</b>
Mar. 18	Last day for a <a href="#">refund</a> based on complete withdrawal
Mar. 26	<b>Withdrawal Deadline</b>
Mar. 29	<b>Good Friday-No Classes</b>
<b>Mar. 30</b>	<b>Saturday classes meet</b>
Apr. 15	<b>Summer/Fall Registration Begins</b>
<b>May 1-2</b>	<b>Last HSS Robots class meetings; Last COMM 345 Thu meeting (May 2)</b>
<b>May 4</b>	<b>Last Saturday COMM meeting</b>
May 7 (Tue)	Classes Follow a <b>Friday</b> schedule
May 8 (Wed)	Reading day
May 9-15	<b>Final exams – No final exam in either course.</b>
<b>May 16</b>	<b>Grades are due in the Registrar's Office</b>

**MORE...**

**More about History at NJIT:**

- The history department at NJIT has eight full-time faculty members, and is part of the Federated History Department at NJIT<Rutgers University, Newark. **Because the department is Federated, NJIT and Rutgers students can take history courses offered at either institution.**
- The NJIT History Department also offers a **minor in history**.
- **On the graduate level**, the Federated Department of History also administers a joint Rutgers/NJIT masters program in history, which offers two joint degrees:
  - the Master of Arts (MA)
  - Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT).

**Available fields of concentration:** American History, World History, and the History of Technology, Environment and Medicine/Health.

**Application is made to the program at Rutgers-Newark.**

## Pre-Law at NJIT:

The NJIT History Department also administers a new BA program in Law, Technology and Culture that represents the new focal point for pre-law education at NJIT. The new program is specially focused on preparing students at a technological university for careers in law and law-related areas of business and government, as well as providing students with a broadly comparative perspective on the nature of legal thought and practice. Special features of the NJIT program include:

- An interdisciplinary curriculum focused on law in relation to technology, media, environment, health, and culture.
- Opportunities for exceptionally well-qualified students to matriculate in an **accelerated BA/JD program with the Seton Hall School of Law**.
- Hands-on internships in law.
- A patent law option available to students pursuing careers as patent attorneys or patent examiners.

Because this is a highly competitive program, applicants should have records of strong academic performance and SAT composite scores in mathematics and critical reading of at least 1200.

The NJIT history department also administers a new minor in Legal Studies.

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