

BSc (Hons) Journalism Level III
BSc (Hons) Political Science Level III
August-December 2016

COMS 4112 New Forms of Media

This module will examine the nature of modern media forms and content. The old media/new media paradigms will be studied by looking at successive trends in the history of information and communication technologies. Particular emphasis will be laid on the Internet and the World Wide Web. Innovative media forms that pass the test of popularity will also be discussed (e.g. mobile technologies, weblogs, pod casting) as well as forecasted successes (e.g. e-books, VOD, wearable media). The social and cultural implications and reception of these new media forms will be explored.

Indicative list of topics

- What is new media?
- History of information & communication technologies
- The Internet & the World Wide Web
- The new new economy (what is the digital revolution?)
- Trends in new media use (mobile culture, open source movements, wikis and citizen journalism, weblogs, podcasting, social networks, VOD, e-books, augmented reality) and future developments (wearable media, 3D communication)
- Social, political & cultural aspects of new media (the digital divide, participative democracy)
- Philosophical aspects (technophobia vs. technophilia debate)
- Economic aspects (the dotcom rise & fall, Moore's Law, The Long Tail)
- Public & political discourse on new media: can Mauritius be a cyberisland?

Evaluation

Exam: 60%

C.A: 40%

1. Assignments/tests/quizzes: 20%
2. Project: 20%

Students will be penalised for late submission of work (deadlines will be communicated in meetings and on the blog).

References

- John Seely Brown & Paul Duguid, *The Social Life of Information*
- Manuel Castells, *The Internet Galaxy*
- Gillian Doyle, *Understanding Media Economics*
- Neil Gershenfeld, *When Things Start to Think*
- Peter Lunenfeld, *The Digital Dialectic*
- Lev Manovich, *The Language of New Media*
- Joël de Rosnay, *La Révolte du Pronétariat*
- Chris Stakutis & John Webster, *Inescapable Data*

Compulsory online resources

- Students are required to consult the Comstudies blog regularly at the following address: <http://comstudies.wordpress.com/> and more specifically the page for this module at: <http://comstudies.wordpress.com/lectures/new-forms-of-media-aug-dec-2016/>
- As far as possible, notes will be made available prior to the meetings. Students are required to print copies of these, read them carefully and note down questions/comments for the next meetings. They are encouraged to use the comments section on the module page to ask questions so that all students can see these together with the answers. Information about assignments will also be provided online. All students are required to adhere strictly to rules applicable to the relevant module as communicated.

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