

Mini-Calendar 2018 - 2019

Department of

Communication Studies

liberal arts &
professional studies



The Department of Communication Studies provides an interdisciplinary environment in which students develop a comprehensive, critical awareness of communication and media.

As a **program of study**, we analyze the production and circulation of ideas and values and explore their relationship to social and cultural practices.

As **faculty** we help students acquire requisite tools of reflective inquiry, as well as verbal, written, and digital skills essential to effective, creative communication, and critical civic engagement.

As **communication scholars** we are collectively committed to historically informed, socially relevant research and pedagogy that addresses social relations of power.

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Preparing for the Future, Employment and Career Paths

An Honours Bachelor of Arts with a major in Communication Studies is generally directed to developing critical, interdisciplinary education as a foundation for life-long learning and progressive contributions to society. The program is not oriented toward “applied” training construed in a narrow sense, but rather aims to convey a wider and deeper knowledge of the complex social environment of information, media, technology, and communication. Whether you are interested in working directly in media and communication, or appreciate that comprehending, participating, and working in the “information society” requires an in-depth knowledge thereof, our program is designed to provide you with the background, critical education and skills to do so.

To assist you in choosing special areas of interest, organize your course selections, consider complementary majors or minors, and navigate possible career paths, our courses are organized into three thematic areas: **(1) media, culture and society**, **(2) politics and policy**, and **(3) critical technology studies**. Other than the three mandatory second year courses introducing students to each of the streams, upper-level courses in the three streams provide a way of thinking about the field of communications and do not involve prerequisites or the requirement that a certain number of courses be taken in any stream. The streams are not mutually exclusive, as in practice the knowledge and skills learned in each overlap and complement each other.

Media, Culture and Society: Courses in this area focus on how communication media affect the way we perceive and respond to the social and cultural environment. This area emphasizes the study of social and cultural theories which examine these relationships. (Courses in this stream have “7” as their second number; the required course to this stream is Comn2700, “Media, Culture and Society.”)

The **courses** in this area cover the range of old and new media from the traditional print (newspaper, magazine and book) to broadcast media (such as film, music, video and television) and new interactive web-based media. Representative courses are Comn3700 3.0 “The Emergence of Advertising,” Comn3701 3.0 “Advertising, Culture and Society,” and Comn4700 “Popular Culture and Communications.”

Employment: Graduating students have used their understanding of this relationship to work in the communication and cultural industries, and to develop alternatives in non-profit and public media education and production. Specific occupations include: media researcher (conducting research on television content, television ratings or audience research, for example); media developer (creating specialty content, English as a second-language, or ethnic programming); journalist, writer, or editor; creative work in arts and entertainment (copyrighter, producer, director, sales representative); communications advisor on intercultural communications; historians of media and cultural history; and teacher/media educator (developing media literacy in high schools for example).

Some Complementary Majors/Minors: Anthropology, Sociology, Culture and Expression, Children’s Studies, English, Social Science, Race, Equity Studies, Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies, Marketing.



Politics and Policy: The focus in this area is on the critical role of the state, civil society and private corporations in the development of communications systems, the production and distribution of culture, and issues of social power. (Courses in this stream have “2” as their second number; the required course to this stream is Comn2200, “Politics and Policy.”)

Understanding the business of media and the relationships between the economic and political dimensions of communication and culture is necessary to identify and participate in production and decisions regarding them. Representative **courses** include: Comn3220 “Organizing Social Movements,” Comn4214 6.0 “Media, Publics and Democracy.”

Employment: A focus on media regulation and policy-making prepares the student for work in areas such as: media analyst (researches particular issues or news coverage); media relations (works with media in producing and managing coverage); political communication (speech writer, media liaison, or campaign director); public affairs coordinator; professional lobbyist; public opinion researcher; policy developer or analyst (interpreting and developing corporate and public policies on culture and communication); communications law (intellectual property, copyright law, communication rights); or communication specialist (managing communication with/to the public through a range of media, including public relations, government communications, non-profit and activist organizations).

Some complementary Majors/Minors: Global Political Studies, Languages, Political Science, Public Policy and Administration or Management, Geography; International Development Studies, Law and Society, Social and Political Thought, Social Work, Urban Studies, Work and Labour Studies.



Critical Technology Studies: Courses in this area examine the relationships between cultures, societies and communication technologies. (Courses in this stream have “5” as their second number; the required course to this stream is Comn2500, “Information and Technology.”)

As both a tool and a product of social relations, technology is ever-pervasive in the “information society”. Representative **courses** include Comn3550 3.0 “Digital Media and Culture”, and Comn4520 6.0 “The Electronic Information Network Marketplace.”

Employment: Graduates within this area combine their knowledge of technology in jobs applying new media, such as: video games and graphic arts, website developer, technical assistants, systems analyst, technology coordinator, telecommunications specialist, teaching new media.

Some complementary Majors/Minors: Cognitive Science, Geography, Global Political Studies, Information Technology, International Development Studies, Law and Society, Work and Labour Studies, Science and Technology Studies, Social Science.





Degree Programs in the Department of Communication Studies

Our degree options include:

- Honours Major BA (Stand-Alone)
- Honours Double-Major BA
- Honours Major/Minor BA
- International Honours BA (iBA): Stand-alone Major, Double-Major, and Major/Minor

We do NOT offer a BA degree (90 credit degree), nor do we offer a minor.

Please note these residency and graduation requirements for each program:

→Residency requirement: A minimum of 30 credits and at least 50% of the credits required in each major/minor must be taken at York University.

→Graduation requirement: Students must successfully pass at least 120 credits which meet the Faculty's degree and program requirements with a cumulative grade point average of at least 5.0. As students progress through their Honours BA degree, they must meet the minimum overall gpa, as defined by the number of credits earned—see the chart below—or they will be de-enrolled from the BA Honours degree.

Year Level	Total Earned Credits	Minimum Cumulative GPA
Year 1	Less than 24 earned credits	4.00
Year 2	24-53 earned credits	4.25
Year 3	54-83 earned credits	4.80
Year 4	84 earned credits or greater	5.00

Major Requirements for Honours Major BA* (Stand-Alone)

*Students who began earlier than 2012 are asked to consult the department for relevant regulations

The 48 credits in Comn Studies must include:

- 6 credits from Comn1000 6.0
- 18 credits from: Comn2500 6.0, Comn2200 6.0, Comn2700 6.0
- 12 credits at the 3000 level in Comn
- 12 credits at the 4000 level in Comn

Students are required to take Comn1000 6.0 before other courses, but there is no requirement that you complete all Comn2xxx credits before taking Comn3xxx credits. We do require that you have 84 credits earned PRIOR to enrolling in Comn4xxx courses. The rationale for this is that we want to ensure all students in these small seminars are prepared academically to handle the upper-level material.

General Education Courses: A minimum of 21 general education credits* as follows:

*For students who began in 2014/15 and onwards (Students who started earlier are required to complete 24 credits instead)

- 6.0 credits in natural science (NATS)
- a 9.0 credit approved general education course in the social science or humanities categories
- a 6.0 credit approved general education course in the opposite category to the 9 credit course in social science or humanities

Consult this webpage for a listing of all General Education courses:

<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm>

- under “Search Courses By...”, click on **General Education Courses**;
- under “Session”, select the appropriate session;
- under “Faculty”, select **Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (AP)**
- under “Degree”, select **Bachelor of Arts – (BA)**
- click on “Search Courses”

Honours Requirements:

- **Upper-level credits:** At least 36 credits at the 3xxx-level or 4xxx-level, including at least 18 credits at the 4xxx-level (24 of these credits will be completed within the Comn major; the other 12 credits can be taken inside or outside of the major)
- **Credits outside the major:** Aside from general education courses, at least 18 credits must be taken outside of Comn

Honours Major/Minor BA

The Honours Major in Communication Studies previously described in the Stand-Alone program may be pursued jointly with any Honours Minor BA program offered in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies.

Honours Requirements:

- **Upper-level credits:** At least 36 credits at the 3xxx-level or 4xxx-level, including at least 18 credits at the 4xxx-level (these credits will normally be completed within the combined requirements of the major and the minor)
- **Credits outside the major:** Students who are completing a double major or major/minor are deemed to have fulfilled this requirement.



International BA (iBA) Degree

All of the above degree options are also available in the International Honours BA (iBA) program: Students can do a Stand-Alone Comn iBA, a Double-Major iBA, or a Major/Minor iBA.

The major requirements are the same for the various degree options listed above PLUS they must fulfil the following requirements:

→**Language Study Credits:** At least 18 credits in a modern language offered by York University, including the Advanced I university-level course in the chosen language;

If an iBA student is fluent in a language, s/he may undergo an examination to test language proficiency by the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics.

Students exempted from one or more of the language courses required for the iBA must complete cultural courses related to that language instead.

→**Internationally-Oriented Credits:** 9 or 12 credits outside of the student's iBA major requirements must be deemed "internationally-oriented" (e.g., courses with "global", "globalization," "international" or another country as part of their title). A sample list of internationally-oriented courses was developed by the Office of the Dean, LA&PS, and can be accessed through this website:

<http://comn.laps.yorku.ca/files/2015/10/APINTLOrientedCourses.pdf>

(This is not meant as an exhaustive list, but rather a sample to support IBA enrolments)

Students enrolled in the iBA program **PRIOR to 2015-16** need at least **12 credits** in internationally-oriented courses.

Students enrolled in the iBA program from **2015-16 ONWARDS** need at least **9 credits** in internationally-oriented courses PLUS the following required pre-departure course (to be completed before the term abroad):

ANTH 2300 3.0 Intercultural Training Skills (should there be a scheduling conflict with a core course required for the student's major, ANTH 2300 can be waived and replaced with an extra 3 internationally-oriented credits for a total of 12, as in the original iBA program).

→**International Exchange:** All iBA students must complete at least one full term abroad as a full-time student at one of York University's exchange partners.

Honours Requirements:

- **Upper-level credits:** At least 36 credits at the 3xxx-level or 4xxx-level, including at least 18 credits at the 4xxx level
- **Credits outside the major:** For the Honours iBA, courses taken outside the major to satisfy the language requirement and/or the internationally-oriented courses requirement can also be used to satisfy the outside the major requirement

For more detailed information regarding the Honours iBA program requirements, please consult the Degree Requirements section of the Undergraduate Calendar.

An **advising session with the department** is strongly recommended for any student thinking of, or enrolled in, the iBA degree option – particularly when planning courses at the exchange University.

Calling All Communication Studies Majors: Important course-related information you need to know!

1. Grading Standards: what does a GPA of 5 mean?

At York, we use 3 evaluation methods: a letter grade, a point value and a percentage. Students will get a letter grade on a piece of course work (which represents a numerical range). Please see the grading matrix below. In calculating the overall Grade Point Average (GPA), course grades are converted to a point value and then depending on the credit weight of the course (3, 6, or 9), an average is computed from all course credits. Students can use the **GPA Calculator** at the link below to see what their marks will be if they are curious about the effects different marks would have on their GPA:

<http://laps.yorku.ca/student-resources/gpa-calculator/>

LETTER GRADE	POINT VALUE	%	DEFINITION
A+	9	90%+	exceptional
A	8	80-89%	excellent
B+	7	75-79%	very good
B	6	70-74%	good
C+	5	65-69%	competent
C	4	60-64%	fairly competent
D+	3	55-59%	passing
D	2	50-54%	barely passing
E	1	40-49%	marginally failing
F	0	0-39%	failing

2. How much feedback on grades will you get before the drop date(s)?

Your Course Director is required to give feedback to you in a timely fashion so that you can make decisions about whether to drop a course before the drop date. For 2018-2019 dates go to: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw18>

Normally, 30% of the mark should be available for a full-year course, and 15% for a semester course by the respective drop-dates.

3. Dropping or Withdrawing from a Course

For complete information regarding enrolling, dropping or withdrawing from a course, as well as financial and sessional deadlines, please be sure to visit—and bookmark—the **Important Dates website**:

<https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw18>

There are **different academic** and **financial deadlines** for adding and dropping courses. Be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the difference between the Sessional Dates and the Refund Table.

If a student drops a course *before* the drop date, the course will be removed from the transcript.

After the drop date, students may still **withdraw from a course** using the registration and enrolment system until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as "W". The withdrawal will not affect your GPA or count towards the credits required for your degree.

This policy gives an option to students who are struggling in a course and/or who have become overwhelmed by their circumstances: it lets students minimize the impact on their academic standing, reduce their course load and focus on successfully completing their other courses.

The **Course Withdrawal Policy** is also relevant to the resolution of Academic Petitions for a late withdrawal filed after the last day of classes on the grounds of hardship. For additional information on filing a petition, please visit:

<http://laps.yorku.ca/office-of-the-faculty-council/undergraduate-academic-petitions/>

For complete information regarding withdrawing from a course, please go to:

<http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/course-withdrawal>

4. Course Relief

York University allows eligible undergraduate students who have changed their program degree or major to exclude courses completed toward the prior major requirements from their Overall Cumulative GPA (OCGPA) and credit totals for their new program of study.

This policy aims to help students continue in and graduate from a new academic program. For additional information regarding Course Relief, please visit:

<http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/course-relief>

5. What can you do if you receive a low or failure FINAL mark and it's pulling down your GPA?

You have a number of options depending on your circumstances:

- If you think you've been unfairly evaluated, you can ask for a **Grade Reappraisal** (see #6. below)
- You can submit a **Petition**: If the mark or marks are the result of circumstances over which you have not had any control (sickness, family matters, accident, etc.), you can petition to have the mark or marks removed from your transcript. There is a petition package that must be completed and supporting evidence/documents must be attached.
- You can **retake the course**: The second grade will become the Grade of Record, and the first mark—while remaining on your transcript—is NOT averaged into your GPA.
- You can **work very hard** the next session to bring up your average.

6. How do you get work reappraised?

6.1 During the school session

If you question a mark you received in a course with a tutorial, please approach your Tutorial Leader first during her/his office hours for clarification of the marking scheme. If you continue to be dissatisfied, make an appointment with the Course Director and seek her/his intervention. The Undergraduate Program Director can be asked to intervene if a dispute is unresolved, but s/he cannot change the mark.

6.2 Once final marks have been received

If you think that your final grade in a course was not justified, you may submit a formal request to the Department. The form is available at the Department or on our website:

http://comn.laps.yorku.ca/files/2015/10/LAPS_Grade_Reappraisal_Form.pdf

Requests for Grade Reappraisals must be submitted within 21 calendar days of the release of final grades. Students may ask for all written work, or just specific parts to be reassessed – please note that participation marks CANNOT be reassessed. In courses with Tutorial Leaders, the reassessment will be carried out by the Course Director (if s/he has not already seen the work), and then if the dispute continues, by an anonymous marker (another full-time teaching member of Comn Studies) who will receive the work with the student's **name removed**. As a result of the reappraisal, the original grade may be raised, lowered or confirmed. The Grade Reappraisal process may take from 6-8 weeks; and you will be notified of the result in writing via letter to your home address.

The decision of the Department may be appealed—on procedural grounds only—to the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies' Committee on Student Appeals and Academic Integrity. Appeals must be submitted within 21 calendar days of receiving the Department's letter.

7. What If you can't finish your work during the term? Seek a Deferred Standing from your Course Director

Students may be eligible for Deferred Standing in a course on such grounds as illness, family misfortune, or accident. Deferred Standing allows students more time to complete course assignments, tests, and exams, past the deadline for the Course Director to submit final grades. Students in such circumstances should **approach their Course Director(s)** to sign the Final Exam/Assignment Deferred Standing Agreement form available online at:

http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf

Signed Deferred Standing Agreements must normally be submitted within 7 days following a missed exam or the last day to submit term work.

If a Course Director is unwilling or unable to sign the DSA form, you can meet with an **Academic Advisor** to submit a **petition package** within 14 calendar days of the missed exam or last day to submit term work (follow instructions at the link below):

<http://council.laps.yorku.ca/academic-petitions/>

8. How do you take a course at another university for credit? Obtain a Letter of Permission (LOP)

If you wish to enroll at another university (host) and have those undergraduate credits transferred toward your York University Degree, you must first apply and be granted a Letter of Permission by the Office of the Registrar.

For complete information regarding LOPs, please visit:

<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/lop/>

Steps for taking an LOP:

- Download and fill out a **Letter of Permission** request which can be found at the following link: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/lop>
- Submit the form, along with the Course(s) Syllabus to the appropriate department for them to confirm whether the course(s) is/are equivalent to one of their course(s);
- Submit the completed form with the department signature to the Registrar's Office (RO), and pay the 50\$ related fee (once processed, the RO will send you the Letter of Permission per se);
- Follow the other institution's process to enrol in their course(s);
- Once the course(s) is completed, arrange for the other institution to send an official transcript directly to York's Registrar's Office - it is also recommended to order a transcript for your own record as you will not have access to the one sent to York;
- Once York receives the official transcript directly from the other institution, if the course was successfully passed (with a minimal grade equivalent to a C at York), the credits will be added to your credits count (but will NOT appear on your York transcript).

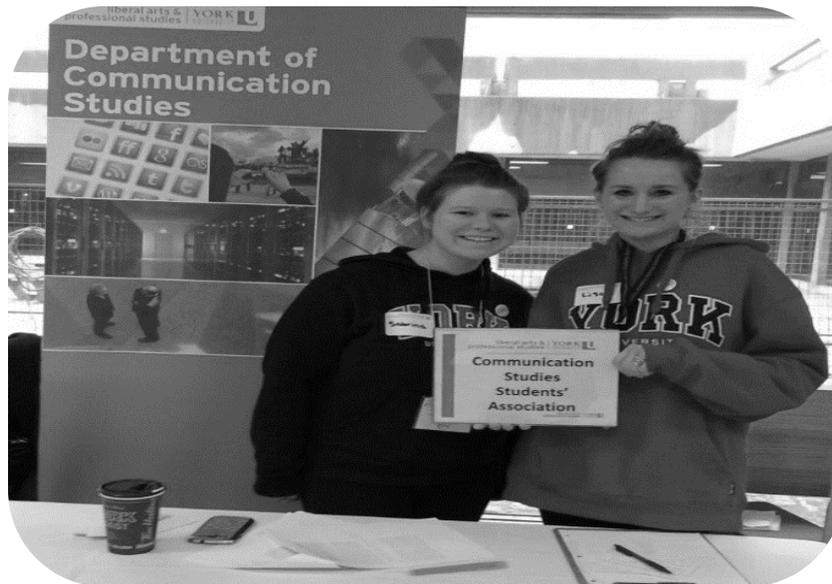
9. How seriously should you take academic honesty? Seriously!

The York University's *Senate Policy on Academic Honesty* "is an affirmation and clarification for members of the University of the general obligation to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty." Students are advised to make themselves aware of all the instances of academic dishonesty and proper research procedures in order to avoid being charged.

The Department of Communication Studies is committed to following up on all reported cases. The Undergraduate Program Director's office handles all cases at the Exploratory Level. The full document, including the range of penalties, is available at: <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

10. Where do I go for specific academic help with my major?

Call 416-736-5057 for an advising session with either our Program Assistant or Undergraduate Program Director. We are here to help!



Enrich your Undergraduate Experience by Participating in a York International Exchange

We encourage students with an overall GPA of B (or 6) at the end of their first year (24+ credits) to consider studying for a semester at a university abroad. You would need to attend workshops and information sessions provided by York International in your second year to ensure that you are able to attend a university abroad in your third year. Please consult <http://yorkinternational.yorku.ca/go-global/exchange/> for full details. There are excellent Communication Studies programs around the world affiliated with York, and many of them allow you to study in English. **Book an advising session with the Undergraduate Program Director** if you need to chart out your Comn studies major courses before you leave to study abroad.

We also encourage students to consider taking the iBA degree which requires one semester abroad as well as language courses and internationally-oriented courses beyond the requirements for the major.

Communication Studies Students Association (CSSA)

The York University Undergraduate Communication Studies Students Association (CSSA) seeks to create relationships between Communication Studies students through both academic and social events; students can connect through events such as networking galas, job fairs, movie nights, mentoring programs and speakers. It also hopes to create a bridge between faculty and students to prepare students for life after university. The Association is created by students, for students with faculty and staff support. For more information about the CSSA visit:

<https://yorku.collegiatelink.net/organization/CSSA> OR visit their office in TEL 3036.



Student Awards

The Comn Studies awards listed below are available exclusively to students in the major. Please NOTE: Comn students only need to apply directly for the last four awards (the Orlicky, Siegel and two Fokus Media awards); eligible students are automatically considered for all other awards. Recipients of the awards will be notified in the fall and honoured at a reception held jointly with the Department of Social Science in November.

There are a number of awards & scholarships available to York University undergraduate students more broadly – See link for more details: <http://sfs.yorku.ca/scholarships>

Penny Jolliffe Scholarship

Named in honour of a long-standing member of the Communication Studies Department at the University, this award goes to a student in the first-year “Introduction to Communications” course who has a high GPA, is recommended by the Course Director, and is continuing on into second year as a major in Communications Studies.

Eric Koch Award

This award honours Professor Eric Koch, a long-time member of the former Communication Studies Program in the former Faculty of Arts, who retired in 2003. This award is given to a student in the second-year course “Politics, Policy and the Media” who has a high GPA, is recommended by the Course Director, and is continuing on as a major in Communications Studies.

Jerry Durlak Prize

This award honours Professor Jerry Durlak, a long-time member of the former Communication Studies Program in the former Faculty of Arts, who retired in 2005 and passed away in 2010. This award is given to a student in the second-year course “Information and Technology” who has a high GPA, is recommended by the Course Director, and is continuing on as a major in Communications Studies.

Dalton Kehoe Prize

This award honours Professor Dalton Kehoe, a long-time member of the former Communication Studies Program in the former Faculty of Arts, who retired in 2008. This award is given to a student in the second-year course “Communication in Everyday Life” who has a high GPA, is recommended by the Course Director, and is continuing on as a major in Communications Studies.

Reva Orlicky Memorial & Founding Friends Award

This award was established by York University alumni and friends to provide a bursary to a deserving upper-year Communication Studies major (3rd or 4th year), under the guidelines of the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund. Priority is given to those students who have shown an interest in, or are taking courses on the context and conditions for radio/public broadcasting in Canada, who have a high GPA, and are in financial need.

Students need to write a short letter explaining how they meet the criteria. Applications must be submitted to the Undergraduate Program Director, via email, by the October deadline published on the Comn website: <http://comn.laps.yorku.ca/students/awards/>

Arthur Siegel Award

This award honours Arthur Siegel who, over his 34-year career at York, was an inspiration to thousands of students, was instrumental in shaping York’s Communication Studies Program and served as Chair of the Department of Social Science, among many other achievements. Professor Siegel made unique and important scholarly contributions to the fields of politics and media communications policy in Canada, particularly on press freedoms, censorship, propaganda and referenda. Prior to teaching at York, Arthur was a prolific journalist in Canada and the US, and an instrumental force at Radio Canada international.

The award is given to a student who is a double-major in Communication Studies and a Social Science program, who has completed at least 60 credits, and who holds the highest cumulative GPA among the qualified candidates. (If there are no eligible double-majors then the recipient will be a Comn major.) The recipient must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or protected person, and an Ontario resident who demonstrates financial need.

To be considered for this award, submit the Student Financial Profile available at: <http://sfs.yorku.ca/aid/sfp/>

Fokus Media 1

Open to past COMN 3700 and past COMN 3701 students. A student may apply to both Fokus awards but can only be granted one of the two.

This award was established by *Fokus Media* to support a Communication Studies major who is interested in pursuing a career in advertising, marketing or media. The award is given to a past student in COMN 3700 "The Emergence of Advertising", or COMN 3701 "Advertising, Culture and Society", who has achieved a high mark in either one, or both of these courses, has a high overall GPA, demonstrates financial need, and is continuing as a Communication Studies Major.

Students need to write a letter outlining how one or both of these courses contributed to their knowledge of advertising and marketing and how this knowledge shapes their career plans. Applications must be submitted to the Undergraduate Program Director, via email, by the October deadline published on the Comn website:

<http://comn.laps.yorku.ca/students/awards/>

To be considered for this award, students must also submit the Student Financial Profile available at: <http://sfs.yorku.ca/aid/sfp/>

Fokus Media 2

Open to all 4th year graduating Communication Studies majors. A student may apply to both Fokus awards but can only be granted one of the two.

This award was established by *Fokus Media* to support a Communication Studies major who is interested in pursuing a career in advertising, marketing or media. The award is given to a student who has 84 credits earned, who has a high overall GPA, and demonstrates financial need.

Students need to write a letter outlining their reasons for pursuing a career in advertising or media as well as how specific courses in Communication Studies contributed to their understanding of advertising or media. Applications must be submitted to the Undergraduate Program Director, via email, by the October deadline published on the Comn website: <http://comn.laps.yorku.ca/students/awards/>

To be considered for this award, students must also submit the Student Financial Profile available at: <http://sfs.yorku.ca/aid/sfp/>



SUMMER 2018 COURSE OFFERINGS

AP	COMN	2700	Cr=6.00	Media, Culture and Society
AP	COMN	3213	Cr=3.00	Labour in Communication & Cultural Industries
AP	COMN	3220	Cr=3.00	Organizing Social Movements
AP	COMN	3221	Cr=3.00	Communicating Social Movements
AP	COMN	4202	Cr=6.00	Issues in the Political Economy of Media
AP	COMN	4505	Cr=6.00	Debates about Technological Development
AP	COMN	4520	Cr=6.00	Electronic Info Network Marketplace
AP	COMN	4700	Cr=6.00	Popular Culture and Communications

FALL/WINTER 2018/2019

Core Course Descriptions

AP/COMN 1000 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Course Director: Prof. Robert Heynen

This course introduces students to the study of communication. It is designed to provide a critical overview - or survey - of the main themes and issues in the field of communication and mass media. It looks at communication from both the personal and social levels and considers the myriad ways in which forms and processes of communication are implicated in our knowledge and understanding of the world.

The course is structured to introduce students to the three thematic areas of the Communication Studies Program: Media and Culture, Politics and Policy and Critical Technology Studies. In the first term, we will consider the roles of language, culture and, particularly, the mass media, in the production of meaning and the construction of our social environment. In the second term, we will examine the roles of the state, civil society, institutions, organizations, and technology in the production and distribution of culture and social power.

The basic objectives and anticipated learning outcomes of the course are: i) to provide a critical understanding of the structures and practices of communication, and particularly the mass media; ii) to develop a critical understanding of communication as a cultural form; iii) to encourage the use and appreciation of social theory in reflecting on the study of communication and mass media; iv) to build an appreciation of the social political and economic dimensions of mass-mediated communication; v) to develop an understanding of the Canadian context of mass communication.

The lectures will be supplemented with both video materials and in-class assignments to illustrate the relationships between your personal experiences of the media and the theoretical and critical perspectives discussed in class.

Format:	2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial
Projected Enrolment:	425
Reserved Spaces:	Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusions:	AP/COMN 1310 9.0, AP/SOSC 2410 6.0 or 9.0

AP/COMN 2200 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – POLITICS, POLICY & THE MEDIA

(NB: This is a REQUIRED COMN 2000 level course for all COMN majors)

Course Director: TBA

This course analyzes the relationship between media practices, government decision-making, and social constructions of power. We examine the role of the state, market and civil society in the development of communication systems and in the production and distribution of culture with special attention to Canada.

The course engages in the theoretical perspective that communication systems and cultural practices shape – and are shaped by – the social constitution of power in all societies. Students will be introduced to a range of dominant and alternative media structures and practices; historic and current examples of Canadian government communication and cultural policy-making (on national and international levels); and various media representations of social relations (and of political processes and political parties in particular). Students will also be introduced to theories of media and democracy and discuss how democracy is articulated both in and through communication.

The basic objectives and anticipated learning outcomes of the course are to provide a critical understanding of: (i) the ways in which media are implicated in practices and processes of governance, democracy, and social constitutions of power; (ii) the public policy dimensions of media practice; (iii) the relationships between media and forms of globalization; (iv) the relationships between political and economic dimensions of mass-mediated communication and socio-cultural practices; and (v) the role of media in Canadian politics and society. The course aims to develop this understanding to provide a foundation for advanced communication courses, to enhance media literacy and research skills, and to prepare the student for active citizenship.

Format: 2-hour lecture and one-hour tutorial
Projected Enrolment: 199
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion: COMN 2313 6.0 or 9.0

AP/COMN 2500 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

(NB: This is a REQUIRED COMN 2000 level course for all COMN majors)

Course Director: Prof. Jonathan Obar

This course focuses on critical stances with which to view our society's preoccupation with "information," "media" and "technology." Different models, theoretical approaches and case studies are used to understand how "information" and "technology" affect social change.

We begin with the premise that we cannot understand our current and future information societies unless we have some understanding of how information has been accumulated and disseminated in the past and how information technologies correspond with specific social and political forms. We will look at specific social science models that allow us to conceptualize how “information” and “technology” affect social change, as well as specific theories that provide perspectives on the effects of information technology. Students should be aware that while we look at specific media and technology, for example the telephone and the printing press, the course does not try to present a unified “history” of all media and technologies.

Thus, in addition to the broader aims outlined above, the course will also equip students with sets of key terms and concepts as well as methodological and theoretical approaches which will both build on ideas presented in the Communications Studies introductory course and provide the basis to enable the student to engage with more complex and sophisticated analyses undertaken in the 3000 and 4000 level courses in this stream.

Critical Skills component: As well as focusing on students’ reading and writing skills, this course also concentrates on enhancing students “Information Literacy” skills, including searching, evaluating and organizing skills for research.

Format:	2-hour lecture and one-hour tutorial
Projected Enrolment:	200
Reserved Spaces:	Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion:	COMN 2312 6.0 or 9.0

AP/COMN 2700 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – MEDIA, CULTURE & SOCIETY

(NB: This is a REQUIRED COMN 2000 level course for all COMN majors)

Course Director: Prof. Kevin Dowler

This course explores the individual and collective significance of the role of communications in culture and society. Various historical, theoretical and methodological approaches are introduced as ways to analyze the impact of communications media in everyday life.

The principal aim of the course is to allow students the opportunity to develop a critical awareness of what role media play in their lives, and to understand that media themselves, and the ways that each of us use media, are shaped by forces that are not necessarily self-evident, nor subject to our individual will. Through the discussion of various approaches for thinking about communication media, students will be in a position to move toward understanding and evaluating media in their historical, social and cultural contexts, and the ways that media shape those contexts.

The course will also equip students with sets of key terms and concepts as well as methodological and theoretical approaches which will both build on ideas presented in the introductory course and provide the basis to enable the student to engage with more complex and sophisticated analyses undertaken in the 3000 and 4000 level courses in this stream.

Format: 2-hr lecture and 1-hr tutorial
Projected Enrolment: 200
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion: COMN 2314 6.0 or 9.0

COMN 2000 Level Course – NOT FOR MAJOR CREDIT

AP/COMN 2111 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – COMMUNICATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE

(NB: This is NOT a required COMN 2000 level course for COMN majors)

Course Director: TBA

In this course we examine the processes of everyday communication in order to understand how we construct ourselves, our relationships to each other and the larger world. The course will explore a variety of models to discover the fundamental connections between how we create and communicate meaning within ourselves, between ourselves and others in "face-to-face" situations, and between ourselves and many others using impersonal, mediated forms of communication.

The course has two purposes: (1) it provides students with a general understanding of how the various social sciences can help them to recognize the "taken-for-granted" aspects of their daily lives as communicators, i.e. to discover the forces that move them and the people around them to act in ways that are sometimes hard to understand at first glance; and (2) it gives students a chance to explore the nature of effective communication in their daily lives. We will analyze "what works and what doesn't" in a number of important situations in life. We will use a variety of "hands on" learning techniques to encourage students to experience concepts directly and to improve their skills as communicators. This will not only help them in their work as students but in other areas of their personal lives. Course work also includes keeping a personal journal where students can reflect upon their observations of their own and others' communication behaviour.

Format: Lectures for this course will be offered on-line; weekly 1-hour in-class seminars will complement the lectures
Projected Enrolment: 125
Reserved Spaces: COMN majors & open to ALL year 2, 3 and 4 students
Exclusion: COMN 2311 6.0

COMN 3000 Level Courses

AP/COMN 3100 3.0 (Fall) – FOUNDATIONAL COMMUNICATION THEORY

Course Director: Prof. Mark Hayward

This course provides an overview of the foundations and theoretical approaches in communication theory. Special attention will be paid to mass communication theory, medium theory, audience research, semiotics, and the political economy of media.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3100 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3101 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved: Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion: COMN 3320 6.0

AP/COMN 3101 3.0 (Winter) – CONTEMPORARY COMMUNICATION THEORY

Course Director: Prof. Mark Hayward

This course examines the various perspectives of contemporary communication theory. It explores current theoretical approaches with an emphasis on contemporary debates and issues in communication studies.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3100 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3101 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion: COMN 3320 6.0

AP/COMN 3111 3.0 (Fall) – ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Course Director: TBA

The purpose of this course (part one) is to familiarize the student with the main concepts, viewpoints, and research findings and applications in the field of organizational communication. Much of what human beings accomplish alone or with others in the modern world is achieved in the context of formal organizations. Human organizations are both the products of persistent, focused communication and the contexts within which on-going communication occurs. The fundamental aspects of human communication at the interpersonal, group and larger organizational levels will be studied. The relationships between organizational size, complexity, tasks and external

environments and the nature, quality and flow patterns of intra-organizational communication will be analyzed.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3111 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3112 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: Lectures for this course will be offered on-line; weekly one-hour in-class seminars will complement the lectures
Projected Enrolment: 125
Reserved spaces: COMN majors, limited seats for other year 2, 3 & 4 students
Exclusion: COMN 3311 6.0

AP/COMN 3112 3.0 (Winter) – PROBLEMATIC COMMUNICATION IN ORGANIZATIONS

Course Director: TBA

The purpose of this course (part two) is to continue to familiarize the student with the main concepts, viewpoints, and research findings and applications in the field of organizational communication. We will study approaches to solving communication problems and to effecting change in organizational structure and functioning in order to respond to changes in external environments.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3111 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3112 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: Lectures for this course will be offered on-line; weekly one-hour in-class seminars will complement the lectures
Projected Enrolment: 125
Reserved spaces: COMN majors, limited seats for other year 2, 3 & 4 students
Exclusion: COMN 3311 6.0

AP/COMN 3204 3.0 (Fall) – PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AS COMMUNICATION

Course Director: TBA

This course examines "public diplomacy" as communication and cultural strategies used by states to promote "national interests" and foreign policy goals through understanding, interacting with, informing and influencing publics worldwide. Case studies of various states will be examined including the history, theory, organization, policies and practices of public diplomacy with a particular focus on the United States.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion: AP/COMN 4805 6.0

AP/COMN 3210 3.0 (Winter) – GLOBAL MEDIA, LOCAL COMMUNICATION

Course Director: TBA

This course examines the theories and practices of the global media - telecommunications, news, film, television, and the new media - in the contexts of local communication and culture. The interactions between the global media and local communication and culture are explored.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion: AP/COMN 4804 6.0

AP/COMN 3220 3.0 (Fall) – ORGANIZING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Course Director: TBA

This course analyzes themes in three areas: social movements; social justice as currently articulated by social movements; communication and organization strategies used by movements. The course introduces themes related to organizational communication in the social movement context, specifically in a communications-dedicated class; it also gives students the tools to apply communications theories to the social movement environment.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3220 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3221 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors

AP/COMN 3221 3.0 (Winter) – COMMUNICATING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Course Director: TBA

This course examines the literature on major developments in the history of Canadian social and protest movements, social entrepreneurialism, and pressure group behaviour. The larger historical questions of current movements' relationships to past patterns of protest are investigated, as is the question of how social justice agendas are managed by governments. To better situate this concern, the course examines major themes of technology, society, regulation and the political-cultural impact of social and protest movements.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3220 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3221 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors

AP/COMN 3250 3.0 (Fall) – COMMUNICATION POLICY I: A COMPARATIVE INTRODUCTION

Course Director: TBA

This course introduces students to the politics of policy making across communication, including press, broadcasting and telecommunication, with an emphasis on the Anglo-American democracies.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3250 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3251 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion: AP/COMN 3350 3.00

AP/COMN 3251 3.0 (Winter) – COMMUNICATION POLICY II: CURRENT ISSUES & CASE STUDIES

Course Director: TBA

This course examines current issues in communication policy in Canada through the use of case studies. It considers such topical issues as: national identity and globalization, convergence and fragmentation, as well as intellectual property, privacy, and global media regulation, among others.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3250 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3251 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion: AP/COMN 3351 3.00

AP/COMN 3510 3.0 (Fall) – CONSIDERATIONS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Course Director: TBA

This course is intended in part to foster a better understanding of both analog and digital telecommunication technologies. Its larger purpose is to help students develop a critical awareness of how these technologies have been developed and disseminated in the service of particular socio-political agendas. Students taking this course are not expected to have more than a cursory acquaintance with information technology or regulatory affairs. They should, however, be prepared to read and use primary data and policy documents in this course, and to work on developing basic numeracy skills.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3510 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3511 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 30
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion: COMN 3310 6.0

AP/COMN 3511 3.0 (Winter) – TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN TELECOMMUNICATION

Course Director: TBA

This course examines the social and political issues pertaining to Canadian communication policy makers. Technological advances in information delivery networks, including communication satellites, electronic fund transfers and electronic mail, are examined and applied to Canada's communication system.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3510 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3511 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 30
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion: COMN 3310 6.0

AP/COMN 3550 3.0 (Fall) – DIGITAL MEDIA & CULTURE

Course Director: TBA

This course examines the origins and development of forms of digital media and culture with particular emphasis on how they differ from pre-digital or "analog" cultural forms. Upon establishing our theoretical foundations for considering new media as technology and culture, we investigate the historical development of digital technology and some of the transformative effects it has had, and continues to have, on previous forms of

communication. Seminar discussions address themes such as identity, privacy, hardware/software, education, journalism, news, and interactivity, in relation to topics such as hypermedia, cyberspace, satellites, digital telephony, digital radio/music, digital photography/video, and digital literacy.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3550 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3551 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors

AP/COMN 3551 3.0 (Winter) – ADVANCED ISSUES: DIGITAL MEDIA & CULTURE

Course Director: TBA

This course investigates some of the transformative effects of digital communications technologies within realms of culture as diverse as politics, romance and mating, industry, medical and pharmaceutical practice, commerce, finance, the arts, scientific enquiry, and contemporary warfare. Relevant to class discussions are phenomena such as world order transformation, cybernetics and automation, interoperability, databases, computer modelling, information overload, artificial intelligence, virtuality, networks, social networking, biometrics, and the global positioning system. The course concludes by addressing questions regarding what constitutes the good digital life.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3550 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3551 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors

AP/COMN 3591 3.0 (Winter) – FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON TECHNOLOGY

Course Director: TBA

This course examines communication technologies from a feminist perspective. Various technologies from the telephone, television, cinema, computers, and the Internet are analyzed within historical relationships of gender.

Format: 3 hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors
Exclusion: COMN 3393 6.0

AP/COMN 3700 3.0 (Fall) – ADVERTISING: THE GROWTH OF A TWENTIETH CENTURY BELIEF SYSTEM

Course Director: TBA

This course reviews the historical development of advertising. Careful attention is placed on the economic shift from production to consumption, the culture of consumption and other contributing factors.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3700 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3701 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 2-hour lecture, 1-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 200
Reserved Spaces: COMN majors, limited seats for other year 2, 3 & 4 students
Exclusion: COMN 3315 6.0

AP/COMN 3701 3.0 (Winter) – ADVERTISING, CULTURE & SOCIETY

Course Director: TBA

This course examines the place of advertising within culture and society. It will focus on the analysis of advertising; the cultural triumph of the image; the democratization of luxury; the aesthetics of mass culture and the place of advertising within contemporary culture and society.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3700 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3701 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 2-hour lecture, 1-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 200
Reserved Spaces: COMN majors, limited seats for other year 2, 3 & 4 students
Exclusion: COMN 3315 6.0

AP/COMN 3712 3.0 (Fall) – RISE OF THE CLASSICAL HOLLYWOOD CINEMA

Course Director: TBA

This course concentrates on the Hollywood cinema from 1929 to 1945, a period that deals with the concept of 'the studio system' which functioned to cut production cost while mass producing films. We will investigate fictional narrative film and its relation to entertainment, art, ideology and political discourse. Emphasis will be placed on the significance of talent and creativity to the studio product. The period covered includes the impact the Great Depression and World War II made on America and the Hollywood cinema.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3712 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3713 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3 hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: COMN majors, limited seats for other year 2, 3 & 4 students
Exclusion: COMN 2840 9.0

AP/COMN 3713 3.0 (Winter) – DECLINE OF THE CLASSICAL HOLLYWOOD CINEMA

Course Director: TBA

This course concentrates on the Hollywood cinema from 1946 to 1964. The aftermath of WWII produced political, social and cultural changes that affected the mainstream cinema. Politically, the Cold War led the government to publicly investigate the film industry and its connections to leftist ideals; socially, WWII brought to the forefront concerns about inequality home and abroad; culturally, WWII led to the public interest in 'realist' filmmaking, a challenge to the studio system and its meaning of production. In addition, corporate America saw the film industry as a means to encourage a consumerist lifestyle.

Students are encouraged to take COMN 3712 3.0 if they want to take COMN 3713 3.0, but there is no prerequisite.

Format: 3 hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: COMN majors, limited seats for other year 2, 3 & 4 students
Exclusion: COMN 2840 9.0

AP/COMN 3725 3.0 (Winter) – YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEDIA IN CANADA

Course Director: Prof. Estée Fresco

This course explores the production of media for young people here in Canada. Canada has a long history of producing media texts for children and youth. Our children's television, film, music, magazine and videogame industries are rich and diverse, and are exported around the world. Yet, despite this richness and depth, the story of Canadian children's and youth media industries has not been told. The purpose of this course is to overcome this deficit by undertaking an in depth political economic analysis of the history of young people's media industries in Canada.

Format: 3 hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 35
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors

AP/COMN 3751 3.0 (Winter) – TELEVISION AS CULTURE

Course Director: Prof. Kevin Dowler

This course examines the interaction between television and culture by exploring the local and global impact of television, its structures, the medium and its effects. The place of television within the larger structure of society and culture will be examined. Audience response and other variables will be considered.

Format: 3 hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 150
Reserved Spaces: COMN majors, limited seats for other year 2, 3 & 4 students
Exclusion: COMN 3316 6.0

AP/COMN 3770 3.0 (Winter) – TRANSNATIONAL MEDIA CULTURES & GLOBAL YOUTH

Course Director: Prof. Estée Fresco

The aim of this course is to provide students with an overview of the critical debates and issues surrounding youth media culture in a transnational context. This course will trace the impact of the transnational mobility and ubiquity of media such as film, television, music, mobile technologies, video games and the internet, on the proliferation of global youth cultures. The course will explore the emergence of complex forms of hybrid cultures and identities that increasingly occur amongst young people throughout the world. At the basis of the course will be a critical analysis of the construction of youth including the multiple, diverse constructions across a range of cultures.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Enrolment: 35
Reserved spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors

AP/COMN 3900 3.0 (Fall) – THEMES IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Course Director: Prof. Shirley Roburn

This seminar course provides a discussion of critical issues in the field of communication studies and will focus on the technological, cultural and political themes that are related to such issues.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Enrolment: 35
Reserved spaces: Most spaces for COMN majors

COMN 4000 Level Courses

(Students need a Minimum of 84+ credits completed PRIOR to enrolling in any COMN 4xxx course)

AP/COMN 4000 6.0 (Fall/Winter) - HONOURS THESIS

If a supervisor in the Department of Communication Studies can be arranged, students registered in Communication Studies may undertake a major thesis credit after the completion of 84 credits and with the permission of the department. Honours Thesis courses require a signed agreement between the student and faculty member, as well as the approval of the Undergraduate Program Director.

Evaluation:	TBA
Format:	N/A
Projected Enrolment:	N/A
Reserved Spaces:	4th year COMN majors only

AP/COMN 4140 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – COMMUNICATIONS FIELD EXPERIENCE: CORPORATE & CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Course Director: Prof. Patricia Mazepa

Students earn course credit by working on a project for an organization involved in communication policy development, information services or administration. Details of each student's responsibilities are worked out in consultation with the supervisor, the course director and the student.

Admission to this course is by application ONLY: the form is available on the Communication Studies web page:

<http://comn.laps.yorku.ca/undergraduate-program/courses/field-experience-course/>

Format:	3-hour seminar held periodically and weekly workplace hours
Projected Enrolment:	25
Reserved Spaces:	4th year COMN majors only – by Application
Exclusion:	COMN 4340 6.0, COMN 4150 6.0

AP/COMN 4201 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – RESISTANCE & SUBVERSION ON THE INTERNET

Course Director: Prof. Jonathan Obar

This course explores the ways in which social justice seeking groups have engaged with the Internet for social change through an examination of the Internet's origin stories, software, hardware, regulation, use and access.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: COMN 4801 6.0

AP/COMN 4214 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – MEDIA, PUBLICS & DEMOCRACY

Course Director: TBA

The course explores the relationship between contemporary forms of mediated communication and democratic public life. It examines issues such as freedom of expression and the regulation of communication and culture in the context of both dominant and alternative media practices.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: COMN 4314 6.0

AP/COMN 4520 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – ELECTRONIC INFORMATION NETWORK MARKETPLACE

Course Director: TBA

This course examines the social, economic, political and technological forces in Canada and other nations that are creating an electronic information network marketplace. The main purpose is to identify the opportunities and barriers to a new kind of information-rich civilization, to test its implications and to suggest strategies for managing it.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: Most spaces for 4th year COMN majors
Exclusions: COMN 4320 6.0

AP/COMN 4700 A 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – POPULAR CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS

Course Director: TBA

Employing a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives, this course examines the role of communications media and information technology in the production and circulation of popular cultural artefacts and practices.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 24
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: COMN 4300 6.0

AP/COMN 4703 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – CHILDREN, MEDIA, EDUCATION & CHANGE

Course Director: TBA

Through the study of various media, we examine the role of communication technology in child development and social change related to gender, culture, ethnicity, and families, and explore the meaning of childhood as reflected in media.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: COMN 4303 6.0

AP/COMN 4708 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – YOUTH CULTURES & MEDIA PRACTICES

Course Director: Prof. Susan Driver

This course analyzes contemporary youth cultures with an emphasis on the ways in which youth engage with diverse and converging media texts and practices. The course develops a contextual understanding of media literacy, identities, embodiments, subcultures, social networks and civic engagements within the lives of youth, analyzing media institutions and policies, consumer cultures, technologies as well as local participatory and transnational practices. Youth are understood in terms of their media uses and productions as learners, consumers, producers and artists across complex relations of power, discursive frameworks and dynamic experiences. Oriented toward conceptualizing "youth," "culture" and "media practices" in relational, historically nuanced and culturally situated ways, we will examine and undertake qualitative youth media research with critical and reflexive theoretical and methodological tools. Our goal is to balance an understanding of hegemonic forces of commodification controlled by corporate media with emerging and changing relations where youth collectively transform the conditions, forms and directions of their media participation.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: HUMA 4141 6.0

AP/COMN 4721 3.0 (Fall) – THE CITY IN FILM: IDENTITY & PLACE

Course Director: TBA

The cinema, arguably the most significant cultural medium of mass communication of the 20th century, reflects and interprets urban experience, contributing to perceptions of the real city through the popular imagination. The theoretical underpinnings of the course are located in Benjamin's and Baudrillard's ideas regarding the significance of the cinema in

relation to urban life; selected films illustrate their contentions. The focus of the course will be on how the cinema utilizes space and location to communicate the collective concerns addressed in narrative entertainment, considering genre, iconic meaning, and authorship.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: COMN 4321 3.0

AP/COMN 4722 3.0 (Winter) – MEDIASPACE & THE MODERN CITY

Course Director: TBA

Mediaspace defines and encompasses the kinds of spaces created by media, as well as the effects that existing spatial arrangements have on media forms as they materialize in everyday life. This course analyzes both historical and contemporary case studies from Canadian and global cities, employing theories and methodologies from Cultural Studies, Communications, and Geography.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: COMN 4322 3.0

AP/COMN 4725 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – MEDIATIONS OF IDENTITY

Course Director: TBA

This course examines processes and practices at work in media representations of race, sexuality, gender, class, ethnicity and nation within Western society. Key theoretical approaches to power, knowledge, ideology, subjectivity and signification are applied to current and historical representations of social identities.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: COMN 4325 6.0

AP/COMN 4726 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – VISUAL CULTURE: HISTORIES, THEORIES & POLITICS

Course Director: TBA

This course develops critical perspectives on the field of visual culture. Visual culture includes the study of a broad range of media and forms of expression, from photography and film to graffiti, considering them as part of a broader culture of visibility. The course begins from the perspective that vision itself is not simply natural or universal, but that modes of seeing, being seen, and invisibility need to be understood in concrete historical, social, political and cultural contexts. We consider key theories in the field, critical analyses of modes of visual perception, and studies of specific media as examples of visual cultural production. The course makes extensive use of visual cultural sources in exploring different approaches to the field. Topics include: historical perspectives on different media; critical analyses of the visual culture of the body and subjectivity, including questions of race, gender, sexuality and ability; visual culture and capitalism; visual culture, colonialism and globalization; alternative practices of visual culture; the politics of surveillance; critical perspectives on new media.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: COMN 4326 6.0

AP/COMN 4727 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – CULTURAL POLITICS & AESTHETICS

Course Director: TBA

Through an examination of key theoretical texts and case studies, both historical and contemporary, this course will develop a framework for understanding the relationships between culture, communication, aesthetics and politics. Through assignments and a major project students will learn to analyze theoretical approaches and apply them to specific case studies.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: COMN 4327 6.0

AP/COMN 4729 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – POPULAR MUSIC AS COMMUNICATION & CULTURE

Course Director: TBA

This seminar examines the historical shift from folk music to popular music and the changing roles of musical communication in human experience. It surveys pre- and post-World War II forms of North American popular music, while also addressing non-Western examples. It studies a number of theoretical and methodological approaches to popular music and its various links to significant social issues.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: COMN 4329 6.0

AP/COMN 4732 3.0 (Winter) – THEORIES OF DIASPORA & TRANSNATIONAL MEDIA

Course Director: TBA

Provides a survey of some of the key issues regarding diaspora and transnational media. The course examines different theoretical and methodological approaches to diaspora and transnational studies from different disciplines. Particular attention is given to the role of transnational media and their changing relationships to national identities, space, and collective memory. Concepts such as nation, transnationalism, diaspora, technology, transnational media, transnational space, diasporic identity, imagined communities, and imagined worlds are explored in this class.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only
Exclusion: COMN 4332 3.0

AP/COMN 4740 3.0 (Winter) – SURVEILLANCE, MEDIA & SOCIETY

Course Director: Prof. Robert Heynen

This course provides an overview of key theories, concepts, and approaches in the field of surveillance studies. Responding to the growing ubiquity of surveillance practices, the course traces the emergence of systematic surveillance in earlier periods and in relation to media like photography, and explores the implications of the embedding of surveillance in media infrastructures in the digital age. The focus will be not only on large-scale surveillance systems, whether governmental or corporate, but also on the ways in which surveillance impacts our everyday lives and shapes who we are, especially in terms of reinforcing social inequality based on class, race, gender,

sexuality, or disability. Themes may include: the panoptic model and its critics; privacy and surveillance; surveillance and security; social media, datamining, and dataveillance; subjectivity, embodiment, and surveillance; democracy and mass surveillance; new media, protest, and surveillance.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only

AP/COMN 4790 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – REFLECTIONS ON CONSUMER CULTURE

Course Director: TBA

This course will examine consumer culture, its development and the mechanisms that not only enable it but also stand antagonistically against its continued extension. We will consider how consumer goods are used as a form of communication and identification, and further, how our systems of media and communication are impacted by the dominance of commercial interests in our culture.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only

AP/COMN 4900 6.0 (Fall/Winter) – ADVANCED SEMINAR IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Course Director: Prof. Shirley Roburn

Provides a discussion of critical issues in the field of communication studies and will focus on the technological, cultural and political themes relevant to communication and the media. Topics studied may include medium theory, audience theory, reception theory, representations, discourse, commodification, hegemony, cultural citizenship, the cultural industries, communication policy, the political economy of media, postcolonial theories, spectacle, and discourse.

Format: 3-hour seminar
Projected Enrolment: 25
Reserved Spaces: 4th year COMN majors only



Faculty Directory: Full-time & Retired

Natalie Coulter

Assistant Professor

E-mail: ncoulter@yorku.ca

BA (Trent), MA (Guelph), PhD (Simon Fraser)

3042 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)

On Sabbatical 2018/19

Natalie Coulter's teaching and research interests are in girls' studies, critical advertising studies, and the media of children and young people. Her book *Tweening the Girl: The Crystallization of the Tween Market* has been published by Peter Lang's Mediated Youth series (2014). She has published in the *Canadian Journal of Communication*, *Jeunesse*, and *Popular Communication*. She is a founding member of ARCYP (Association for Research on the Cultures of Young People). She presently has two research projects underway, one on the history of children's cultural industries in Canada, and another on the embodied tween, living girlhood in global and digital spaces.

Kevin Dowler

Associate Professor

E-mail: kdowler@yorku.ca

BFA (Ottawa), MA, PhD (Concordia)

3020 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)

Professor Dowler teaches courses on culture and media, policy and theory, as well as teaching and supervising in the Graduate Program in Communication and Culture, the Graduate Program in Sociology, and Interdisciplinary Studies. He is currently pursuing SSHRC funded research on cultural policy and governance in municipalities in Europe and North America, as well as CIHR sponsored research on representations of health and medical practices in the media.

Susan Driver*BA (Toronto), MA, PhD (York)*

Associate Professor

3016 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)

E-mail: sdriver@yorku.ca

Susan Driver's teaching and research focuses on feminist and queer theories as critical frameworks for understanding cultural mediations of social relations, affects, identities and embodiments. She has published several essays in books and journals on queer maternal representations. Her recent work engages with youth oriented media and she has written a book titled *Queer Girls and Popular Culture* (Peter Lang, 2007) and edited a collection *Queer Youth Cultures* (SUNY, 2008).

Estée Fresco*BA (Toronto), MSc (LSEPS), PhD (Western)*

Assistant Professor

3013 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)

E-mail: efresco@yorku.ca

Estée Fresco's teaching and research interests are in socio-cultural studies of sport/physical activity; consumer culture; national identity; Indigenous-Settler relations; and ageing. Her works have appeared in journals including the *Journal of Consumer Culture*, *International Journal of the History of Sport*, and *Olympika: The International Journal of Olympic Studies*. She currently has two research projects underway: an investigation into the intersection of nationalism and consumption in the Olympic Games in Canada; and a study of how seniors use self-monitoring technology to maintain healthy lifestyles.

Mark Hayward*BA (Toronto), MA (McGill), PhD (UNC-Chapel Hill)*

Associate Professor

3029 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)

E-mail: mhayward@yorku.ca

Mark Hayward's teaching and research focuses on three areas: identity and media, the philosophy of technology and representations of the economy in popular culture. He has published a number of essays on these subjects and is the editor of two collections: *Cultural Studies and Financial Capitalism* (2012) and *Communication and Economy* (2013). He is currently researching the evolution of multicultural media in Canada since 1970.

Robert Heynen*BA (McGill), MA (Alberta), PhD (York)*

Assistant Professor

3040 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)

E-mail: rheyne@yorku.ca

Rob Heynen's teaching and research interests include surveillance studies, visual culture, radical cultural/critical theory, and the cultural politics of embodiment. He has published a number of articles in these areas, and is also the author of

Degeneration and Revolution: Radical Cultural Politics and the Body in Weimar Germany (Brill 2015/Haymarket 2016), and the co-editor of *Expanding the Gaze: Gender and the Politics of Surveillance* (University of Toronto Press, 2016).

Ganaele Langlois

BA (Sorbonne), MA, PhD (York)

Associate Professor

3017 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)

E-mail: gana@yorku.ca

On Sabbatical 2018/19

Professor Langlois's research interests include new media, software studies, and critical theory. She has co-written a book on new media and politics entitled *The Permanent Campaign: New Media, New Politics* (Peter Lang). Her single author book, *Meaning in the Age of Social Media* (Palgrave) was released June 2014.

Anne MacLennan

BA, MA (McGill), PhD (Concordia)

Associate Professor

3019 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)

E-mail: amaclenn@yorku.ca

Professor MacLennan teaches in the Department of Communication Studies and the graduate program in Communication and Culture. Her major research interest is early Canadian radio broadcasting. She is completing work on a study of programming during the 1930s and moving on to a study of the radio audience and memory. Her research interests more generally include all media history, but specifically “presentism” in television dramas with historical content, collective memory, research methods, teaching, and the role of communication in the development of unions. Her work is published in the *Journal of Radio Studies*, *Relations Industrielles/Industrial Relations*, *Journal of Labor Research*, *The Urban History Review*, and a collection on methodology. She was awarded the University-Wide Teaching Award at York University in 2006.

Patricia Mazepa

BA, BSocSci (Ottawa), MA, PhD (Carleton)

Associate Professor

3030 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)

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Professor Mazepa teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the Politics and Policy stream (since 2004). Her teaching goal is to invigorate critical thinking and maximize student potential. Her research interests are based on the political economy of communication, and has published books on *Alternative Media in Canada* (2012) UBC Press, and *Communication and New Media* (2014) Oxford Press.

Jonathan Obar BA (York), MA (Syracuse), PhD (Pennsylvania State)
Assistant Professor 3015 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)
Email: jaobar@yorku.ca

Jonathan Obar's teaching and research focus on the impact that digital media have on civil liberties, civic engagement and the inclusiveness of public culture. Recent academic publications address Big Data and privacy, internet routing and NSA surveillance and network neutrality. Dr. Obar is also co-editor of a forthcoming volume entitled *Strategies for Media Reform: International Perspectives*. He is currently researching emerging technologies for digital data resistance.

Tokunbo Ojo BA, MA (Concordia), MSc (USIP), PhD (Queensland)
Assistant Professor 3027 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)
E-mail: tojo@yorku.ca **On Sabbatical 2018/19**

Tokunbo Ojo joins the Department of Communication Studies in July 2013. His teaching and research interests are in global media studies, development communication, journalism studies and political communication. His works have appeared in peer-reviewed journals such as *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism*; *Journal of Communication for Development and Social Change*; *Journal of Information Technology Impact*; *Information Development*, and *International Journal of Education and Development using ICT (IJEDICT)*.

Shirley Roburn BA(Concordia), MES (York), PhD (concordia)
Assistant Professor 3018 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)
E-Mail: TBA

Shirley Roburn researches the public storytelling strategies used by indigenous communities and their civil society allies in order to reframe controversies over energy infrastructure development in terms of issues of land and water, food, and cultural sovereignty. Her work to date has focused on campaigns related to the Arctic Refuge and to proposed pipelines, ports, and hydro projects in northern and western Canada, and has appeared in peer reviewed journals including the *International Journal of Communication* and the *Canadian Journal of Communication*. Her active research areas include indigenous communications and legal orders; environmental justice and environmental humanities; and sound studies.

David Skinner

Associate Professor

MA (Concordia), BA, PhD (Simon Fraser)
3021 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)E-mail: skinnerd@yorku.ca

Professor Skinner teaches "Introduction to Communications." He is particularly interested in media and communications policy, media democracy, alternative and community media, and the political economy of communication. He has published numerous articles on media, media reform, and media policy in Canada and is co-author of *Mass Communications in Canada*, 6th ed. (Oxford, 2008) and co-editor of *Converging Media, Diverging Politics: A Political Economy of News in the United States and Canada* (Lexington Books, 2005). He is currently researching media reform in Canada and modes of sustaining independent and alternative media.

Retired Faculty

Mary-Louise Craven

Emerita Professor

*BA (Western), MA (York, Toronto), PhD (Toronto)*E-mail: mlc@yorku.ca

Following from Mary-Louise Craven's dissertation which was an analysis of various genres of hypertext as they existed in the early 1990's, she continues to be interested in exploring online communication and information-sharing platforms. She is particularly interested in exploring the constraints placed on users by the set-up of software, for example, PowerPoint (see, "The uneasy co-existence of a 'culture of ease' and a 'culture of Dummies' in *The Computer Culture Reader*). She is currently analyzing a digitized collection of approximately 1500 Edwardian era postcards from a single-family collection to study the distribution and consumption of this form of communication; she has presented her findings at a wide range of conferences.

Dalton Kehoe

Emeritus Professor

BA (Toronto), MA (Cincinnati), PhD (York)
2011 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Bldg (formerly TEL)E-mail: dkehoe@yorku.ca

Professor Kehoe teaches courses on interpersonal and organizational communication and organizational change in the Communication Studies Program. He also leads seminars on leadership communication in the Executive Development Division of the Schulich School of Business. He has won both the OCUFA Award as one of the top teachers in the province and the York University-Wide Teaching Award. He was also named as one of the top 30 professors in the province by TVO.

Wade Rowland*MA (Trent), PhD (York)*

Emeritus Professor

E-mail: wade@waderowland.com

His research interests include philosophy of science and technology, particularly as it relates to communication; communication ethics and the foundations of moral values; critical realism and the Frankfurt School of social theory; consumer capitalism and its roots in rationalism and scientism; political economy of public broadcasting; the modern business corporation and its moral identity. Recent books include: *Greed, Inc.: Why Corporations Rule Our World*; *Galileo's Mistake: the Archaeology of a Myth*; *Spirit of the Web: the Age of Information from Telegraph to Internet*; *Ockham's Razor: a Search for Values*. He has had a long professional career in print journalism and as producer and senior manager in network television news.