

**GS/CMCT 6004 (York) / CMCT 8906 (Ryerson)**

## **Communication and Culture: An Interdisciplinary Approach**

**FS 2019 – T 16:00-19:00, RS 104**

### **Course Instructor**

Susan Ingram

Office: 242 Vanier

Office Hour: T 14:30-15:30 or by appointment ([singram@yorku.ca](mailto:singram@yorku.ca))

### **Course Description**

This course introduces a critical approach to the three symbiotic areas of the program at the graduate level: media and culture; politics and policy, and technology in practice: applied perspectives. The course explores each area in modules that concentrate on four aspects: history; philosophy; theory; and principal concepts or issues, with one week dedicated to each aspect in each area. The goal of the seminar is to consider some of the foundational theoretical work in the field of communication and cultural studies and develop a critical relation to the three program streams. Each seminar participant will lead discussions of core readings, and each participant will also prepare a reflection on these works as theoretical frameworks and methodological models.

### **Evaluation**

- seminar participation (20%)  
weekly contributions: before each class, post short yet trenchant comments on, or questions about, the readings on the Moodle (due by Mon. morning of each week), then come to class prepared to discuss both the readings and the reflections. Lively, respectful discussions are encouraged.
- 2 moderations of class discussion based on one week's readings + short (not more than 1-2 page) individual written summary of each due the following class (30%)
- oral final exam on 4-5 Dec (20%)
- final essay on where Communication & Culture has come since Kellner & Durham's *Adventures in Media and Cultural Studies* and how you locate your work in CMCT (30%), 5000-7500 words, due Tues 17 Dec (to be submitted by email)

**Required Readings** will be provided as links or pdfs on our **Moodle** site: [moodle.yorku.ca](http://moodle.yorku.ca).

Registered students are automatically enrolled in the system. There you can also find the syllabus, announcements, useful links and a calendar to remind you of important due dates.

**Recommended Reading:** <https://www.intellectbooks.com/interactions-studies-in-communication-culture>

## Schedule

### 10 Sept (Week 1): introductions

- Douglas M. Kellner and Meenakshi Gigi Durham, “Adventures in Media and Cultural Studies: Introducing the KeyWorks”

### 17 Sept (2): media and culture – major concepts and issues

- Raymond Williams, “Culture”
- Tony Bennett, “Culture”
- John Guillory, “Genesis of the Media Concept”

### 24 Sept (3): media and culture – history

- Ien Ang, “Stuart Hall and the Tension Between Academic and Intellectual Work”
- Bruce Robbins, “A Starting Point for Politics”
- Eduardo Mendieta, “The Unfinished Project of the Enlightenment: Jürgen Habermas at 90”
- Douglas Kellner, “Habermas, the Public Sphere, and Democracy: A Critical Intervention”

### 1 Oct (4): media and culture – theory

- Terry Flew, “The ‘Theory’ in Media Theory: The Media-Centrism Debate”
- Dominic Pettman, “The Species Without Qualities: Critical Media Theory and the Posthumanities”
- Kaitlynn Mendes and Cynthia Carter, “Feminist and Gender Media Studies: A Critical Overview”

### 8 Oct (5): media and culture – philosophy

- Jim McGuigen, “The Coolness of Capitalism Today”
- Heidi Yu Huang, “Gramsci and Cultural Hegemony in Post-Mao China”
- Slavoj Žižek, “The Revolt of the Salaried Bourgeoisie”

## READING WEEK

### 22 Oct (6): politics and policy – history

- Stuart Hall, “Life and Times of the First New Left”
- François Dosse, “Introduction to *Chaosology*”
- Geoffrey Winthrop-Young and Michael Wutz, “Translators’ Introduction [to *Gramophone, Film Typewriter*]: Friedrich Kittler and Media Discourse Analysis”

### 29 Oct (7): politics and policy – major concepts and issues

- Mladen Dolar, “Freud and the Political”
- Imogen Tyler, “‘Who Put The ‘Me’ in Feminism?’: The Sexual Politics of Narcissism”
- Rosie Braidotti, “Punk Women and Riot Grrls”

### **5 Nov (8): politics and policy – philosophy and theory**

- Mark Banks, Justin O'Connor, "Inside the Whale (And How to Get Out of There): Moving On From Two Decades of Creative Industries Research"
- Meaghan Morris, "Hong Kong Liminal: Situation as Method"
- Carolyn Cartier, "Model Hong Kong Malls and their Development in Mainland China: Consumer Iconicity and the Trans/national Capitalist Class"

### **12 Nov (9): technology in practice – history**

- Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of its Technological Reproducibility"
- Friedrich Kittler, "Typewriter"
- Douglas Coupland, *Marshall McLuhan: You Know Nothing of My Work!* on Amazon + reviews

### **19 Nov (10) technology in practice – philosophy and theory**

- Mark Hansen, "Foreword (Tim Lenoir)", *New Philosophy for New Media*
- Micky Lee, "On Becoming an Exchange: Translating Michel Callon into a Political Economy of Communication"
- Ned Rossiter, "Imperial Infrastructures and Asia beyond Asia: Data Centres, State Formation and the Territoriality of Logistical Media"
- Nicole M. Aschoff, "Tech Billionaires Think SimCity is Real Life"

### **26 Nov (11) technology in practice – major concepts and issues**

- Ted Striphas, "Algorithmic Culture"
- Jodi Dean, "Apps and Drive"
- Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, "Race and/as Technology or How to Do Things to Race"

### **3 Dec (12): conclusions, review**

- Dan Hancox, "No Logo at 20: Have We Lost the Battle against the Total Branding of our Lives?"
- Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, "[Nishnaabeg Anticapitalism](#)"

**Oral exam 4-5 Dec.**