

MMC 4302: World Communication Systems
Fall 2014
College of Journalism and Communications
University of Florida

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This semester we will focus on gaining an understanding of world communication systems by exploring historical foundations of global communication to include early advancements, technology, social, political and economic factors, theoretical paradigms and the mass media itself among other topics. Against a backdrop of the major trends in the field of communication, students will be equipped to evaluate the use of media tools and approaches around the world.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge of historical trends and foundations for mass communication and the world (i.e. world systems)
- 2) Develop an appreciation for differing approaches to mass communication and media coverage around the world
- 3) Gain a cognitive understanding of theoretical frameworks for mass media around the world
- 4) Demonstrate practical application
- 5) Display knowledge of the relationship between news media and international communication
- 6) Evaluate and apply communication techniques from a variety of global perspectives.
- 7) Compare, contrast, and critique current theories, paradigms and movements in world communication
- 8) Identify areas of future research/application of new communication theories
- 9) Transfer knowledge gained to the professional communication arena in individual areas of interest
- 10) Become more culturally and internationally minded concerning the mass media

Required Text:

McPhail, T. (2014). *Global Communication: Theories, Stakeholders, and Trends*. Malden, MA: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Reading assignments from sources aside from the McPhail text will be provided under course modules (within each individual module) in Sakai.

Assignments

Below is a short description of the assignments. More complete descriptions of each assignment and associated grading rubrics are available on the course site in Sakai.

Weekly Discussion Posts (WDP) (16 total, 160 pts)

Students are required to create posts to compare, contrast, and critique the readings and lectures for that week by answering specific questions as directed by the instructor during lectures. Each post will be different, thus students should pay attention to the prompt within each individual module/lecture for guidance. Posts must **be between 300 and 500 words long**. At the end of each post students should pose two (2) questions to their colleagues that might encourage further discussion of those topics.

In addition to their own post, students must read and respond to the questions at the end of at least **two (2)** additional posts from their colleagues with thoughtful and engaging responses. Each post (and accompanying responses to colleagues) is worth 10 points. In order to receive full credit, students **MUST** respond to all of their colleagues answers to the questions they posed in the original post. Again, we are encouraging a conversation about the lecture/reading materials. Please see the rubric in the discussion forum of Sakai for information regarding point distribution. All Discussion Postings are due by Thursday at 11:55 pm EST, and responses to 2 of your colleagues' posts will be due by the following Sunday at 11:55 pm EST. Deadlines are specified by week in the course modules in Sakai and in the Discussion section in Sakai.

Weekly Quizzes (12 total, 120 pts.)

For each of the first twelve weeks, students will take a timed online quiz assessment in Sakai covering materials from that week's readings. Quizzes will be composed of **10 questions** each and may cover lecture material, textbook material, and any other readings or media provided in the course module. Students will have **10 minutes** to complete each quiz (1 minute per question).

In order to be successful in completing these assessments, students should complete all other assignments within the module first (to including watching lectures, reading assigned texts, viewing any media, completing mini-module assignments). There will be one quiz per week during the first twelve weeks and they must be completed by Sunday evening at 11:55 PM EST of the week assigned.

Mini-Module Assignments (12 total, 120 pts.)

These assignments are provided in each module and will offer opportunities for students to apply what they've learned in a world media systems context. Each assignment is different and full details are offered within the module itself on the Course Modules page in Sakai, as well as in the Assignments tab of Sakai. There will be twelve (12) mini-module assignments (MMA) worth 10 points each, for a total of 120 points.

Again, the goal is to make connections between what we've learned in class and the real world. All Mini-Module assignments are due Sunday at 11:55 pm EST of the week assigned.

Self-Reflection Paper (4-5 pages)

Over the course of the semester, students will have ample occasion for relating the course materials to their own experiences. The self-reflection paper offers students the opportunity to share their thoughts on world communication systems from their own perspectives.

This six- to eight- (4-5) page paper should include references to class lectures, readings, activities, and assignments (i.e. in Lecture 2 we learned about...) but need not refer to outside readings. **This is not a research paper.** This paper should be more like an intelligent (albeit one-sided) conversation among mass communication colleagues that allows the writer to not only display their knowledge, but also make connections in their own lives and work. Questions that students might consider include:

How is global communication important to my field?

How are world communication systems important to me as an individual?

How have my communication approaches and tactics changed as a result of this course?

Why should other students take this course? How would they benefit?

What readings/activities/assignments were most meaningful to me in gaining application-based knowledge of world communication systems?

How will the knowledge and skills I gained during this course apply to my job in the future?

Students may find it helpful to record their thoughts throughout the semester for inclusion in this final paper. The page total includes references.

International Media Individual Project (100 pts.)

Students will complete a final project for presentation to their colleagues during Modules 13 and 15. (ALL DUE during Module 12, and Module 14 is Thanksgiving Break.) This project will consist of a research paper and an AUDIO or TRANSCRIPT

PowerPoint presentation. Students will choose and rank in order of desire five (5) international countries and email their ranked list to the instructor.

Once assigned a country, students will research the media systems and culture of the region. In a five- to seven-page (5-7) paper students will outline the systems of the country and evaluate the media systems present while also making specific reference (complete with summary) to no fewer than **three (3) concepts** from the course materials (textbook, lectures, readings, discussions, etc.).

Students will then synthesize their research paper into a coherent and concise PowerPoint presentation of approximately 10-12 slides (and if audio is provided, presentation should last approximately 10-12 minutes). Students may choose to audio record their presentation (see Module 2 for resources and instructions) or provide a complete transcript of their presentation in the slide notes (approximately 1-2 paragraphs per slide depending on the content of the slide itself). There is **NO** requirement for visual presentation (i.e. lecture videos) other than the slides themselves.

The five international country selections should be ranked in order of preference and emailed to the instructor no later than **Monday, 9/8/14 at 11:55 PM EST**. Preference will be given by date I receive the email followed by the ranking of topics. Individuals that fail to meet the deadline will be assigned at will. Country assignments will be posted in Sakai.

These are three components to the Individual Project:

- 1) Paper: ONE (1) six to five-seven page paper, APA style, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 pt. Times New Roman Font, rubric provided in the Course Modules section of Sakai under 'Module 2.'
- 2) Presentation with Slides: Students may select to audio record their visual presentation OR simply provide a transcript that students/the instructor may follow through each slide (by placing a word for word transcription of the presentation in the "notes" section of PowerPoint and then uploading the "notes" PDF into Sakai. "Notes" section of the PPT should contain 1-2 paragraphs of text per slide).

If using the transcript option avoid cutting and pasting content from the paper directly into PowerPoint. There is **NO VIDEO COMPONENT** necessary. Be sure to include a slide with citations or references to materials used in creating the presentation/paper and cite sources throughout the presentation where applicable. Un-cited work is considered plagiarism.

- 3) Create one (1) discussion post question for your colleagues that encourages responses showing an understanding and synthesis of the information provided during your presentation. Students should be able to answer the question based on what we have learned in the course this semester AND what you present. Thus, the question should be sufficiently broad and inclusive of concepts other students are familiar with in addition to the new information you provide. Students will then

select at **least three (3)** discussion questions to respond to for their Weekly Discussion Post (WDP) credit.

Paper Rough Outline (and the Presentation should include similar information)

I. Briefly Describe the country and its social, historic, economic, geographic, religious, cultural characteristics (1-2 pgs)

II. Describe the media system present in the country. Feel free to add historical details.

III. Situate the media or mass communication system present within the country in the greater context of world systems. Compare and contrast the system with other countries in its region.

III. Choose at least three (3) concepts from lecture/reading/course materials that we've covered this semester and apply it to the media system in your chosen country. Provide examples where possible.

IV. Provide your analysis of the future of communication systems in your country.

All components (paper, presentation, questions) from ALL STUDENTS must be **uploaded into Sakai no later than WEDNESDAY, 11/12 at 11:55 PM EST** into **Module 12**. This will eliminate issues with plagiarism, questions of copying ideas, etc.

Point Distribution

Assignments	Point Value
Weekly Discussion Posts (WDP) (12x10pts)	120
Weekly Quizzes (16x10pts)	160
Mini-Module Assignments (MMA) (12x10pts)	120
Self-reflection paper (1)	100
Individual Project (1)	100
Total Points	600

Modules

Module/Week	Readings/Lecture/Media	Assignments
Module 1, 8/25-8/31:	Video Introduction to the Course and Syllabus Topic: Global Communication, Ch. 1 (for all modules, Chapter readings from McPhail textbook; all other readings linked in modules)	Weekly Discussion Post (WDP), Introduction Post, Quiz 1

Module 2, 9/1-9/7	Video Lecture, Topic: The Medium, Ch. 5	WDP, Quiz 2, MMA
Module 3, 9/8-9/14	Video Lecture, Topic: The Message, Ch. 3	WDP, Quiz 3, MMA
Module 4, 9/15-9/21	Video Lecture, Topic: The Internet, Ch. 6 Media: Global Social Media	WDP, Quiz 4, MMA
Module 5, 9/22-9/28	Video Lecture, Topic: How Five American Companies Control What You Think , U.S. Media Conglomerates Ch. 7	WDP, Quiz 5, MMA
Module 6, 9/29-10/5	Video Lecture, Topic: Communication for development and social change, Ch. 2	WDP, Quiz 6, MMA
Module 7, 10/6-10/12	Video Lecture, Topic: Non-U.S. Multimedia Conglomerates, Ch. 8	WDP, Quiz 7, MMA
Module 8, 10/13-10/19	Video Lecture, Topic: CNN and 24-hour News, Ch. 11, 12	WDP, Quiz 8, MMA
Module 9, 10/20-10/26	Video Lecture, Topic: Arab Media and Al Jazeera, Ch. 13	WDP, Quiz 9, MMA
Module 10, 10/27-11/2	Video Lecture, Topic: Global issues, Music, MTV, Ch. 10	WDP, Quiz 10, MMA
Module 11, 11/3-11/9	Video Lecture, Topic: Global Advertising, Ch. 15	WDP, Quiz 11, MMA
Module 12, 11/10-11/16 Individual Presentations Due in Sakai by WEDNESDAY, 11/12 at 11:55 PM EST	Video Lecture, Topic: Media and Asia, Ch. 14	WDP, Quiz 12, MMA
Module 13, 11/17-11/23	Individual Presentations available in Sakai	WDP
Module 14, 11/24-11/30 {Thanksgiving Break 11/26-30}	Video Lecture, Topic: Euromedia, Ch. 9	WDP, MMA
Module 15, 12/1-12/7	Individual Presentations available in Sakai	WDP
Module 16, 12/8-12/10 SELF-REFLECTION PAPERS DUE IN SAKAI on 12/10 by 11:55 PM EST	Final Video Lecture: The future of World Communication Systems, Ch. 16	WDP

Grading Scale

A	92.5-100	555-600
A-	89.5-92.4	537-554
B+	86.5-89.4	519-536
B	82.5-86.4	495-518
B-	79.5-82.4	477-494
C+	76.5-79.4	459-476

C	72.5-76.4	435-458
C-	69.5-72.4	417-434
D+	66.5-69.4	399-416
D	62.5-66.4	375-398
D-	59.5-62.4	357-374
E	59.4 & Below	356 & Below

University Graduate Level Grading Policy: <http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/>
 Grades for this graduate course will be based on the total points earned over the term.

Course Policies

- Student Effort

As with any course, students will benefit from their own effort in learning the class materials and participating fully in activities, group work, readings, etc. Student grades are often a good reflection of their attitudes and motivations in coursework.

- Professionalism

Students are expected to maintain the appropriate level of professionalism, cooperation, and language in all aspects of this course including, but not limited to, weekly posts and responses to said posts, written assignments, presentations, and interactions with the instructor and colleagues. Students should also incorporate suitable standards for grammar, spelling, and word choice. Please see the Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue for a refresher if necessary: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>.

- Deadlines

Follow all deadlines as printed in the course syllabus and weekly modules. Assignments turned in late will be assessed a full letter grade deduction for each full business day (M-F, excluding holidays) they are late. Assignments turned in less than a full business day late will receive a 5% point deduction prior to grading. Students should utilize time management skills when completing assignments, particularly when dealing with other concerns present in daily life (jobs, children, other commitments, etc.). Students are strongly encouraged to work ahead of schedule to avoid missed deadlines, particularly in the case of final assignments.

- Communication

If students have questions or concerns they are encouraged to communicate with the instructor via email or Skype. Please allow 48 hours for email responses (and/or to set up a Skype appointment) unless otherwise indicated throughout the semester.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office

will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Students with Disabilities who may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to notify the instructor and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) so that reasonable accommodations may be implemented. DRC is located in room 001 in Reid Hall or you can contact them by phone at 352-392-8565. University counseling services and mental health services:

****Netiquette: Communication Courtesy:**

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. [Describe what is expected and what will occur as a result of improper behavior]

<http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Getting Help:

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

** Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
 - <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>
 - 352-392-1575
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

Course Evaluation. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>

University Policy on Academic Misconduct:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

The University of Florida Honor Code was voted on and passed by the Student Body in the Fall 1995 semester. The Honor Code reads as follows:

Preamble: In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. A student-run Honor Court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

The Honor Code: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

For more information about academic honesty, contact Student Judicial Affairs, P202 **Peabody Hall, 352-392-1261**.