

MDIA 206 Media and Digital Cultures

Trimester 2 2011

11 July to 12 November 2011

20 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	11 July to 14 October 2011
Mid-trimester break:	22 August to 4 September 2011
Study week:	17 to 21 October 2011

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
Course Coordinator				
Dr Angi Buettner	angi.buettner@vuw.ac.nz	463 5070	Room 002, 81 Fairlie Terrace	TBC
Tutors				
Kim Wheatley	kim.wheatley@vuw.ac.nz	463 7041	Room 306, 83 Fairlie Terrace	TBC

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Wednesdays 10am until 12pm Lecture Theatre 301, Kirk Building

Tutorials

Wednesdays 3pm, 4pm and 5pm

Fridays 10am, 11am and 12pm

COURSE DELIVERY

The two-hour session on Wednesdays consists of a lecture and whole-class discussion time. The tutorial hour is the forum where you can ask questions about lecture and reading material as well as discuss essay

writing skills, and where you can try out your ideas on others. Tutorials start in week 2. Engagement with course materials and active participation in class discussion is expected.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information relevant to this paper including assessment, information on reading material and further resources will be available on Blackboard and updated throughout the course. Announcements will also be posted. Check this site regularly.

The lecture notes posted on Blackboard are only indicative of the content of the lectures and to complement attendance at lectures.

Your first Blackboard task is to use this forum to sign in to a tutorial. Log on to Blackboard and then select the "Tutorials" button and then follow the SCubed instructions.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

This course introduces some of the key arguments and issues discussed in the rapidly developing field of new media studies. We examine how digital technologies (such as the Internet, digital music, video games) are transforming contemporary culture and every day life, and in turn, how cultural, economic, and political forces shape these technologies.

COURSE CONTENT

By interrogating the historical development of selected media from a variety of theoretical perspectives, we will examine how new cultural forms are made possible by various new technologies. These discussions will be embedded in an exploration of the social institutions that produce and distribute media texts and the different ways in which they are consumed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

1. be familiar with recent and emerging theories of new media
2. demonstrate knowledge of recent and emerging methods of new media analysis
3. demonstrate further development of their written, spoken and visual communication literacies
4. be able to demonstrate critical analytical skills in relation to new media theories and practices.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours spread evenly over the 12 week trimester and breaks, or 13 hours per teaching week.

READINGS

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 4 to 22 July 2011, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. You will be contacted when they are available.

Essential Text:

Giddings, Seth, with Martin Lister, eds. *The New Media and Technocultures Reader*. London: Routledge, 2011. Print. (Available at Vic Books)

Recommended Texts:

Lister, Martin, Jon Dovey, Seth Giddings, Iain Grant, and Kieran Kelly. *New Media: A Critical Introduction*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2009. Print. (Available in closed reserve)

Schirato, Tony, Angi Buettner, Thierry Jutel, and Geoff Stahl. *Understanding Media Studies*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 2010. Print. (Available in closed reserve)

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment item	Word length	%	Due date
1. Short Essay	1500 words	30%	Week 5 (12 Aug 2011)
2. Essay	2000 words	40%	Week 8 (16 Sep 2011)
3. Tutorial Paper	1000 words (+ tutorial participation)	30%	Sign-up in tutorial (between wk 9–11)

1. Short Essay (1500 words) 30% DUE WEEK 5 (12 Aug 2011, by 2 pm)

This assessment asks you to engage with materials in Part 1 of the course. You are to select a reading from Part 1 of the course and write a critical response to it. To do this you need to:

- Identify the main thesis of the reading (what the writer is arguing).
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of this argument.
- Define and demonstrate an understanding of the most salient key terms used by your chosen author.
- Use examples of new media texts or practices to demonstrate your understanding and to support your argument.

Write your critical response using the essay form. Include an introduction, a thesis statement (your own, not that of the selected author), topic sentences, presentation of argument & textual evidence and a conclusion. You should also include the correct bibliographic reference information for all sources used. To enhance the analytical dimension of your short essay we encourage you to cite the work of other authors in the field. This not only enriches your discussion, the work of other authors can be used to justify the claims you make about the reading you have selected.

*This assessment relates to objectives 1, 2 and 3.

2. Essay (2000 words) 40% Due Week 8 (16 September 2011, by 2 pm)

Essay questions will be posted on Blackboard in advance of the due date.

While your tutorial paper needs to be handed in to your tutor at the time of your tutorial, your short essay and long essay should be submitted to the department. Do not hand your short or long essay assignment in to a tutor or lecturer.

The criteria for assessing your short and long essay includes:

Argument

- Clear and succinct introduction
- Thesis precisely formulated
- Thesis well substantiated
- Logically developed argument (well-defined paragraphs)
- Paragraphs clearly focused and introduced by topic sentence
- Strong justification of argument
- Clear conclusion
- Analytical presentation
- Original and creative thought

Style and Presentation

- Legible and well set-out
- Fluently expressed
- Succinct and concise
- Correct grammar and syntax
- Correct spelling and punctuation

Criticism/methodology

- Appropriate use of lecture notes
- Accurate use of terminology
- Good use of quotations
- Good acknowledgement of sources
- Clear and precise footnoting or reference style
- Good bibliographical style

*This assessment relates to objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4.

3. Tutorial Paper (1000 words + tutorial participation) 30% Sign-up in tutorial (between wk 9–11)

This assessment asks you to engage with materials discussed between weeks 9–11 of the course. Once tutorials begin you will be asked to sign up to complete a Tutorial Paper on ONE of the three topics discussed between weeks 9–11. The topic questions will be posted on Blackboard. You write a 1000 word essay that addresses your chosen topic. Bear in mind that your Tutorial Paper should have an analytical dimension and be structured in essay form (introduction, thesis statement, presentation of argument & textual evidence, conclusion).

An integral part of this assignment is sharing the findings of your Tutorial Paper with the rest of the class. It is therefore expected that in the week you submit your Tutorial paper you will a) attend your tutorial and b) contribute to the group discussion. Hand in your written version of the paper to your tutor at the end of the tutorial. Make sure to have an electronic backup of the Tutorial Paper you have submitted to your tutor.

The criteria for assessing your Tutorial Paper includes:

- attendance at tutorial
- contribution to group discussion
- introduction/conclusion (in written version)
- argumentation (in written version)
- style and presentation (in written version).

If due to extenuating circumstances you cannot attend the tutorial you have signed up for, the course convenor will organise a make-up session to be held in week 12 in the second hour of the final lecture. This will involve a new topic question and will be available only to those students who can provide a medical certificate or proof/documentation of extenuating circumstances (workload issues are not extenuating circumstances). The course convenor is the point of contact for discussing these issues.

*This assessment relates to objectives 3 and 4.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the SEFTMS Admin Office, 83 Fairlie Terrace. Remember to fill in your tutor's name, as well as to sign the cover sheet.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must submit ALL pieces of assessment in order to pass the course.

This course is 100% internally assessed and is designed on the understanding that you attend lectures and tutorials, as well as engage with the weekly readings and material. Tutorials are an essential means to complete the course successfully since you will get a chance to develop your understanding of the topic, ask questions, receive information about assignments and deliver a compulsory presentation (between weeks 9–11). Part of your assessment will be based on your preparation of tutorial material and contribution in class (see assessment item 3).

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

Course Programme

! The outline of weekly Lecture & Tutorial Topics & Readings will be posted on Blackboard !

Introduction: What's New About New Media?

Week 1 13 July Introduction to Key Concepts and Themes – no tutorials

Week 2 20 July History and Technology – tutorials

Part 1: New Media Economies and Technologies

Week 3 27 July Cultural Production and New Media – tutorials

Week 4 3 August TBC – potentially a guest lecture – tutorials

Week 5 10 August Visual Culture and New Media – tutorials

ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE 12 August 2011 by 2 pm

Part 2: New Media Interfaces

Week 6 17 August Data and Networks – tutorials

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 22 August to Sunday 4 September 2011

Week 7 7 September Digital cultures and new human-technology relationships – tutorials

Week 8 14 September Social Networking – tutorials

ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE 16 Sep 2011 by 2 pm

Part 3: Politics and Practice of New Media

Week 9 21 September Participation, Citizenship and Digital Cultures – tutorials

ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE

Week 10 28 September Surveillance Cultures – tutorials

ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE

Week 11 5 October Everyday Life and New Media Literacies – tutorials

ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE

Week 12 10 October Course Wrap-up – no tutorials

Study Week: Monday 17 October to Friday 21 October 2011