EMERGINGMEDIA

Go ahead ▶ Get ahead ▶ Stay ahead

ME730: Social, Political, & Cultural Impacts of Emerging Media (Summer 2019, May 30 - July 11)

Dr. Mas Biswas
Associate Professor of Communication
Email Biswas
Cell/Text: (740)707-8396
Skype: mas.biswas
Twitter: @MasBiswas
Link to Zoom Meeting with Biswas

Table of Contents

Course Materials:

No textbooks required for this course. All readings and videos will be posted on the class Moodle site, so make sure you can access it quite frequently. Look for new course materials and announcements. All the materials for a module will be posted for before its start date. It means if a module is scheduled to begin on June 6th then all the readings/videos and assignments for that module will be posted prior before June 6th.

Course Goal:

The overall goal that I'd like you to accomplish by the end of these 6 weeks is to answer this 'big' question—in whatever way you feel works for you: **What do you think are the major emerging/social media issues impacting society and culture in today's world, why are they so impactful and what do they mean for the future?**

Course Description:

Digital media is reshaping society in different ways. Whether inspiring social movements, upending a government or regime, impacting economic reform, promoting a celebrity's latest product, or simply creating a more connected cultural community, emerging media plays a very powerful role. Understanding how digital media is represented, handled, and used in a local, national and global atmosphere is key to using it in better, more proficient ways.

This course will explore the numerous social, political, economic, and cultural issues that currently inform emerging media and the connections we make with and through it. It will examine the access media has to technology today as well as discuss controversial ways it is being used. Everything from "fake news" ("disinformation") to dealings with celebrities, politicians, governments, connecting communities and use of online and social media in different social/political movements and protest events will be up for discussion throughout the next six weeks.

Learning Objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of the global village and how emerging media and technology issues affect it.
2. Explore how emerging media is being used in a social, political, cultural and economic context.
3. Discuss and reflect on issues crucial to understanding emerging media use and the impacts of such use.
4. Communicate in an *informed* and *authoritative* way issues and ideas of emerging media use on an individual, national or global level.

How Do I Take This Course?

This is an online course in which you will be required to do the assigned online readings as well as view online videos. You will interact with the instructor and students in the course through written and VoiceThread discussions as well as completing several other activities including

blogs.

The course does not have a regularly scheduled meeting time, and you are expected to do your work on a regular/routine basis, based on the schedule provided. This is a graduate level course that requires self-discipline. You should check into the course, perhaps on a daily basis. The amount of time you spend on the course system is tracked and can be viewed by the instructor.

Your course grade will be based on timely completion of module assignments and quality of your mid-semester and final projects. You should log into the course Moodle site early to make sure you are able to do so. If you have any problems, please contact the Loyola University help desk (410) 671-5555 and/or send an email to Erin Richardson (erichardson@loyola.edu), the program operations officer.

Computer Requirements:

To complete the course, you will need a computer with a high-speed Internet connection and a Web browser. You will need access to Microsoft Word or be able to convert to Word from another word processing software such as Apple Pages. You will benefit from having a webcam, which usually come pre-installed on most newer PC's and Macs. If it not the case, then you can purchase one for under $20 as an add-on if you wish. You should also have Adobe Reader on your computer. This program can be downloaded for free from Adobe's website.

Office Hours:

Wednesday & Friday: Noon – 2 p.m. via this Zoom Meeting Link or by appointment.

If I need to cancel or reschedule these office hours, I will let the class know in advance. Moreover, I will be available through Skype or Zoom for drop-in video or audio calling by appointment. Feel free to email me and schedule time if you'd like to Skype or Zoom at any point during this semester.

Over the course of the next six weeks (beginning from May 30th), I will make myself as available to you as I can. **Email is the best and most efficient way to contact me** as I check it regularly during the week and sometimes over the weekend. I may not be able to quickly respond to email over the weekend, or after 6pm on Fridays. I will try to reply within 24 hours at most, and if you don't hear back from me in that time period, feel free to text me about your email. When you text me, make sure to first introduce yourself.

Honor Code:

The Honor Code states that all students of the Loyola Community have been equally entrusted by their peers to conduct themselves honestly on all academic assignments and tests. The students of this College understand that having collective and individual responsibility for the ethical welfare of their peers exemplifies a commitment to the community. Students who submit materials that are the products of their own mind demonstrate respect for themselves and the community in which they study. All outside resources or information should be clearly acknowledged. If there is any doubt or question regarding the use and documentation of outside sources for academic assignments, your instructor should be consulted. The student is referred to the Undergraduate Catalogue and/or Student Handbook for more information and further

clarification of the honor code standards, types of violations, due process and sanctions that may be imposed.

Department of Communication policy reiterates that the university honor code applies to all courses, including this one. I will follow the Department of Communications' policy guidelines for honor code violations if any infraction of the code occurs. The department's policy is available upon request.

Disability Support:

Students with Disabilities: To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please email Disability Support Services (DSS), Newman Towers West 107, or call 410-617-2750/2062. If you already registered with DSS and requested an accommodations letter (and DSS has sent the letter to your professors via email), please schedule a brief meeting to discuss the accommodations you might need in this class Please email Marcia Wiedefeld, Director of DSS, or call 410-617-2062.

Grading & Assignments:

Grading will be based on successful and timely completion of two types of assignments – module assignments and final assignment.

Module Activities & Assignments (300 points): One of the primary objectives of these Moodle assignments is to encourage students to interact and learn from each other through reading/video-based nuanced engagement. Therefore, each of the four modules will include three types of assignments or activities – participation in discussion forum, writing a blog post and completing a VoiceThread reflection.

Your timely participation in these assignments is critical as is your ability to analyze and discuss these topics in advanced and more thoughtful ways. Therefore, I will look for the breadth and depth of your thinking in your module assignments. You will receive feedbacks on your module assignments from me during the course, that will tell you how you are doing, what you can improve on, expand on, etc. on assignments. As long as you are submitting on time and making a good effort in creating a thoughtful and insightful responses, you are more likely to get full points in module assignments.

General guidelines on how to complete different module assignments will be posted in "**Course Information**" as well as in different modules on Moodle. Below you will find brief details on each of the module assignments:

> Discussion Forum: You will be expected to write a response to a discussion forum question. Additionally, you will be expected to comment on **two** other student responses in same discussion forum.

> Blog Post: A blog post needs to have minimum 500 words. You can summarize the readings/videos assigned for this module by highlighting the key points and critically discussing them in your post.

> VoiceThread Reflection/Comments: You will be expected to create a module reflection or takeaway lessons about a module with VoiceThread. You can utilize either audio or

video feature of VoiceThread to record your reflection. You can also use one or two PowerPoint slide(s) in support of your audio/video response.

By successfully completing module assignments, a student will be able to achieve course objectives 1, 2 and 3.

Final Project (100 points): It is a research project. It does not need to be a primary research, such as collecting data through surveys, interviews and content analysis. It can be a literature review or research-based long report or presentation on a contemporary topic of your choice that is covered in this course or related to the scope of this course. You can take one of these approaches to complete this final project – 1) a minimum 10-page, double-spaced written paper or 2) a long webpage created with WordPress/Adobe Spark Page or 3) a PowerPoint document with audio or 4) a VoiceThread presentation with audio/video.

Project proposal: By Friday June 15th midnight, you will be expected to submit a 2/3-page, double-spaced project proposal to outline what you are going to investigate in your final project, research goals, significance of this research in relation to emerging media's impact in society, culture, economy or politics either at national or global level or at both levels and how you are going to create your final project.

A detailed prospectus on project proposal and final project will be available in "Final Projects" section of the Moodle.

By successfully completing this project, a student will be able to achieve three course objectives 2, 3 and 4.

Time management and planning: While you will be keeping up with and completing module-specific readings and assignments, you will be expected to continue to work on your final project at your own pace. Have a plan for final project and time management for other assignments so that you can submit them on time.

Course Technology Tutorials: If you have already taken an Emerging Media online course, you may already know how to use VoiceThread, Blog and Discussion Forum on Moodle. In any case, I have created tutorials and shared tutorials on how to utilize different course tools for assignments and course participation purposes. All these tutorials are available in "Course Technology Tutorials" section on Moodle.

Policy on Missing Assignment or Late work: Points will be deducted if you fail to participate in any module assignment. No more than one late work will be accepted in this course. Should you have a valid, excusable reason for not completing an assignment on time, please email the instructor in advance with proper documentation.

For final project, you can get a day extension if you do not have a record of late work/missing assignment throughout the semester.

Distribution of Grade Points (400 points):

Module Assignments (300 points)
　　　　Participation in Discussion Forum (4)　　:　　100 points

Writing Blog Posts (4)	:	100 points
VoiceThread Reflection (4)	:	100 points

Final Project (100 points)

Course Grading Scale:

93%-100%: A
90% - 92%: A-
87% - 89%: B+
83% - 86%: B
80% - 82%: B-
77% - 79%: C+
73% - 76%: C
70% - 72%: C-
60% - 69%: D
Below 60%: F

You need to attain a grade of B- or higher to receive credit in a graduate course.

Course Schedule:

This section includes information about module and assignment deadlines.

Introduction

May 30: Course Overview.
May 31: Post your video introduction via VoiceThread comment available on Moodle in "Forum" section.

Module 1 (Digital Connectivity)

May 30 – June 7.

Assignments:
- Participation in Discussion Forum
- Writing a blog post
- VoiceThread reflection.

All these assignments are due in Moodle by June 6th.

Module 2 (Political Impact)

June 8 – 15.

Assignments:

- Participation in Discussion Forum
- Writing a blog post
- VoiceThread reflection.

All these assignments are due in Moodle by June 14th.

Final Project Proposal

June 16: Final Project Proposal is due in Moodle's "Final Project" section.

Module 3 (Social and Cultural Impact)

June 16 – 25.

Assignments:
- Participation in Discussion Forum
- Writing a blog post
- VoiceThread reflection.

All these assignments are due in Moodle by June 25th.

Module 4 (Economic Impact)

June 26 – July 2.

Assignments:
- Participation in Discussion Forum
- Writing a blog post
- VoiceThread reflection.

All these assignments are due in Moodle by July 2nd.

Final Project

July 8: Final project is due in Moodle's "Final Project" section.

NOTE: If there is a change in this syllabus, you will be notified about it via email and/or Moodle announcement.