



Social Sciences

Communication, Popular Culture & Film

**Course Number: COMM 2P26**  
**Term/Year/Duration: Fall 2016 D1**  
**Course Title: The Information Society**

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**Instructor Name:** Dr. Karen Louise Smith  
**Email:** [karen.louise.smith@brocku.ca](mailto:karen.louise.smith@brocku.ca)  
**Office Location:** Scotiabank Hall Rm. 316  
**Contact:** 905-688-5550, Ext. 6497  
**Teaching Assistant:** Deborah Marshall [dmarshall@brocku.ca](mailto:dmarshall@brocku.ca)  
**Liaison Librarian:** Laurie Morrison | [lmorrison@brocku.ca](mailto:lmorrison@brocku.ca)

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**Times and Locations:**

*Lecture/seminar on Tuesdays 12:00 noon -3:00 pm, TH 255, beginning September 13th*

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**Course Calendar Description:**

Relation between information technology and social and political practices since the 19th century. Historical development of information technologies, role of technology in society, critical theory of technology and concepts of control.

**Course Prerequisites (if any):**

Prerequisite(s): one of PCUL 1F92, CPCF 1F25, COMM 1F90, IASC 1F01(1F00), or permission of the instructor.

**Learning Objectives/Outcomes:**

The learning objectives for this course are for students to:

1. Develop their abilities to conceptualize the information society
2. Identify how technologies from the 1800s have contributed to building the contemporary information society
3. Understand the significance of historical periods such as the industrial revolution and post-industrial society in relation to the information society
4. Define and apply key concepts related to the information society including commodification, social sorting, surveillance and control
5. Demonstrate applied communication skills through written assignments as well as presentations, group work, and online class forums

**Required Readings or Texts:**

The textbook is:

- Hassan, R. (2008). *The Information Society*. MA: Polity Press.

Additional required readings are assigned in the week-to-week course schedule. You are expected to have completed these readings prior to each week's lecture and to bring copies with you to lecture/seminar.

### Course Communications:

Essential course information will be shared in class, via Sakai and by Brock email. Twitter will also be used to create a class-convened conversation (#COMM2P26). Questions that are of interest to the entire class should be sent via the Sakai discussion. Email should be used for individual issues and the instructor will attempt to reply within 2 business days. In-depth questions need to be addressed through office hours, or an individual appointment.

### Updates:

If there are errors or omissions on this syllabus the class will be notified.

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### Evaluation Components and Due Dates

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Assignments and evaluation components of the course will be discussed in class and more detailed guidelines will be posted to Sakai.

Evaluation Component	Grade Weight	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading summary and peer-to-peer presentation (A1)</li> </ul>	5%	Tuesday September 27 <sup>th</sup> or October 4 <sup>th</sup> (assigned dates)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-class test</li> </ul>	15%	Tuesday October 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loyalty app: Usage report (A2)</li> </ul>	10%	Tuesday November 1st
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loyalty app: Research essay (A3)</li> </ul>	20%	Tuesday November 29 <sup>th</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation (Group assignment) (A4)</li> </ul>	10%	Tuesday November 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation report (A5) which includes reflection on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Weekly attendance and participation</li> <li>○ Examples of lecture/seminar participation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	15%	Tuesday December 6 <sup>th</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam</li> </ul>	25%	To be scheduled
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### Assignment Submission Instructions

Instructions about how to submit each assignment will be included on each assignment handout. Assignments are due by 12:15pm on the day of lecture/seminar. Many assignments for 2P26 require that a hard copy be submitted on the due date, along with an electronic copy on Sakai.

In addition to following assignment instructions, students are expected to follow the CPCF departmental guidelines for essays when handing in written work (see:

<http://www.brocku.ca/social-sciences/departments-and-centres/cpcf/student-success/essay-style-guidelines>).

### Late Submission Policy:

Assignments are due at the start of lecture and no later than 12:15 pm, unless the assignment instructions specify otherwise.

Late work will receive a grade of “0” unless one of the following circumstances applies:

- The late work is accompanied by medical documentation that aligns with the delay in submitting the assignment. See Medical Exemption Policy and the medical health certificate at <http://www.brocku.ca/health-services/policies/exemption>
- The student requires an accessibility accommodation which is documented through Student Accessibility Services at Brock
- The student can demonstrate extenuating, or emergency level circumstances for failing to submit work that will be evaluated solely at the instructor’s discretion

Students with extenuating or emergency circumstances *before* a deadline, should contact the instructor as soon as possible, to request an extension. Students may also contact the instructor *after* the deadline if an extraordinary or emergency level situation prevented them from submitting their assignment. The instructor will assess each situation on a case-by-case basis and accept work when there is a compelling reason to justify late submission. Please note that students may be asked to provide evidence or documentation to support the instructor’s discretionary decision about whether to accept late work.

### Relationship between attendance and grades:

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to show up on time. Missing class, being late, or leaving early up to twice over the semester, will not impact your participation grade. Students who need to miss class for reasons consistent with accessibility, medical or religious exemption purposes can consult with the instructor for accommodations.

**Important dates:** (check the section on sessional or important dates in the relevant online University calendar at <http://brocku.ca/webcal/>)

**November 8** is the date for withdrawal from the course without academic penalty.

**November 1** is the date you will be notified of 15% of your course grade.

**October 10-14** is Thanksgiving and the scheduled reading week.

**No dates** are set aside as makeup days due to holidays. Please consult with the instructor at the beginning of the term if you require accommodation to arrange makeup dates.

**Dec 7-8** are set aside for designated reading days (these may be used to cover classes missed because of adverse weather).

**Dec 9-20** are set aside for formal examination periods.

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## Academic Policies

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### Academic Integrity:

Academic misconduct is a serious offence. The principle of academic integrity, particularly of doing one’s own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students should consult Section VII, “Academic Misconduct”, in the “Academic Regulations and University Policies” entry in the Undergraduate Calendar, available at <http://brocku.ca/webcal> to view a fuller description of prohibited actions, and the procedures and penalties.

Please see the CPCF in-depth statement on Academic Integrity at the end of this syllabus. Each student in COMM 2P26 will be expected to submit a signed copy of the CPCF Pledge of Academic Integrity before work will be graded and returned (see: [http://www.brocku.ca/webfm\\_send/4333](http://www.brocku.ca/webfm_send/4333) or the copy at the end of this document).

**Academic Accommodation:**

As part of Brock University's commitment to a respectful work and learning environment, the University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all members of the university community with disabilities. If you require academic accommodations related to a documented disability to participate in this course, you are encouraged to contact Services for Students with Disabilities in the Student Development Centre (4th floor Schmon Tower, ex. 3240). You are also encouraged to discuss any accommodations with the instructor well in advance of due dates and scheduled assessments.

**Academic Accommodation due to Religious Obligations:**

Brock University acknowledges the pluralistic nature of the undergraduate and graduate communities such that accommodations will be made for students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event. Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructor(s) for alternative dates and/or means of satisfying requirements.

**Medical Exemption Policy:**

The University requires that a student be medically examined in Health Services, or by an off-campus physician prior to an absence due to medical reasons from an exam, lab, test, quiz, seminar, assignment, etc. The Medical Certificate can be found at: <http://www.brocku.ca/health-services/policies/exemption>

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**Week-to-Week Schedule**


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Week	Focus and activities/assessments	Readings/Screenings
1 - Tuesday Sept. 13	<b>Introduction to the course</b>  <i>Optional:</i> set up a Twitter account for the course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaylor, B. (Dir.) (2015). <i>Do not track: Morning rituals</i> (Episodes 1 &amp; 2). Retrieved from: <a href="https://donottrack-doc.com/en/episodes/">https://donottrack-doc.com/en/episodes/</a> [screened in class]</li> </ul>
2 - Tuesday Sept. 20	<b>What is the information society?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The information society today (Hassan Preface and Chapter 1), pp: i-31.</li> <li>Bellinger, G., Castro, D., Mills, A. (n.d.). Data, Information, Knowledge and Wisdom. Retrieved from: <a href="http://www.systems-thinking.org/dikw/dikw.htm">http://www.systems-thinking.org/dikw/dikw.htm</a></li> <li>Lyon, D. (1988). Introduction: The roots of the information society idea. <i>The information society: Issues and illusions</i>. Cambridge, USA: Polity Press: pp. 1-21.</li> </ul>
3 - Tuesday Sept. 27	<b>ICTs and the 1700s: The Panopticon</b>  <i>Due: Reading summary (group 1 - Lyon reading)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quan-Haase, A. (2013). The Surveillance Society (Chapter 11) In <i>Technology and Society: Social Networks, Power, and Inequality</i>. Oxford University Press, pp: 212-236.</li> <li>Lyon, D. (2003). Surveillance as social sorting: Computer codes and mobile bodies. In <i>Surveillance as social sorting: Privacy, risk and digital discrimination</i>. London: Routledge, pp. 13-30.</li> <li>UCL Bentham Project. (n.d.). <i>The Panopticon</i>. Available online: <a href="https://www.ucl.ac.uk/Bentham-Project/who/panopticon">https://www.ucl.ac.uk/Bentham-Project/who/panopticon</a></li> </ul>
4 - Tuesday Oct. 4	<b>ICTs and the 1800s: The Jacquard Loom</b>  <i>Due: Reading summary (group 2 - Fernaeus reading)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coming of the information society (Hassan Chapter 2), pp 32-74.</li> <li>Fernaeus, Y., Jonsson, M., &amp; Tholander, J. (2012). Revisiting the jacquard loom: threads of history and current patterns in HCI. In <i>ACM Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems</i> (pp. 1593-1602). Available from: <a href="http://dx.doi.org.proxy.library.brocku.ca/10.1145/2207676.2208280">http://dx.doi.org.proxy.library.brocku.ca/10.1145/2207676.2208280</a></li> <li>Meyer, A. (2013). <i>Meet Monsieur Jacquard</i>. Cooper Hewitt. Available from: <a href="http://www.cooperhewitt.org/2013/01/21/meet-monsieur-jacquard/">http://www.cooperhewitt.org/2013/01/21/meet-monsieur-jacquard/</a></li> </ul>
Reading Week - no class - Tuesday Oct. 11		

<p>5 - Tuesday Oct. 18</p>	<p><b>ICTs and the 1800s: The Telegraph</b></p> <p><i>Assessment: In-class Test</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A shrinking planet (Hassan Chapter 4), pp. 109-134.</li> <li>• Carey, J. (1991). Time, space, and the telegraph. In <i>Communication in History</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) Eds. D. Crowley and P. Heyer. N.Y.: Longman Publishers: pp. 154-159.</li> <li>• Library of Congress. (n.d.). <i>Invention of the Telegraph</i>. Available from: <a href="https://www.loc.gov/collections/samuel-morse-papers/articles-and-essays/invention-of-the-telegraph/">https://www.loc.gov/collections/samuel-morse-papers/articles-and-essays/invention-of-the-telegraph/</a></li> </ul>
<p>6 - Tuesday Oct. 25</p>	<p><b>ICTs and the 1800s: The Analytical Engine</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freiburger, P. A. &amp; Swaine, M. R. (2014). Analytical Engine. Encyclopaedia Britannica. Available from: <a href="http://proxy.library.brocku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&amp;db=ers&amp;AN=87998781&amp;site=eds-live&amp;scope=site">http://proxy.library.brocku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&amp;db=ers&amp;AN=87998781&amp;site=eds-live&amp;scope=site</a></li> <li>• Essinger, J. (2004). "The Analytical Engine" in Jacquard's web: how a hand-loom led to the birth of the information age. pp. 81-98. Available online from Brock library: <a href="http://books.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.brocku.ca/viewdoc.html?id=/ebooks/ebooks0/oxford/2009-11-30/1/0192805789">http://books.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.brocku.ca/viewdoc.html?id=/ebooks/ebooks0/oxford/2009-11-30/1/0192805789</a></li> <li>• British Library. (1842). <i>Letter from Ada Lovelace to Charles Babbage</i>. Available from: <a href="http://www.bl.uk/collection-items/letter-from-ada-lovelace-to-charles-babbage">http://www.bl.uk/collection-items/letter-from-ada-lovelace-to-charles-babbage</a></li> </ul>
<p>7 - Tuesday Nov. 1</p>	<p><b>From punch cards to the census</b></p> <p><i>Due: Loyalty app: Usage report</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heide, L. (1997). Shaping a technology: American punched card systems 1880-1914. <i>IEEE Annals of the History of Computing</i>, 19(4), 28-41.</li> <li>• Darroch, M., &amp; Darroch, G. (2010). Losing our census. <i>Canadian Journal of Communication</i>, 35(4), 609-618.</li> </ul>
<p>8 - Tuesday Nov. 8</p>	<p><b>Personal computing and the invention of the internet</b></p> <p><i>Due: Group presentation (1<sup>st</sup> of 3 dates)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information takes over (Hassan Chapter 3), pp. 75-108.</li> <li>• Ceruzzi, P. E. (1988) The personal computer (Chapter 7). In <i>A history of Modern Computing</i>. Massachusetts: MIT Press, pp. 207-241. Available from: Sakai.</li> <li>• Leiner, B. M., et al. (2009). A brief history of the Internet. <i>ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review</i>, 39(5), 22-31. Available from: <a href="http://dx.doi.org.proxy.library.brocku.ca/10.1145/1629607.1629613">http://dx.doi.org.proxy.library.brocku.ca/10.1145/1629607.1629613</a></li> </ul>
<p>9 - Tuesday Nov. 15</p>	<p><b>Taylorism and efficiency</b></p> <p><i>Due: Group presentation (2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 dates)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taylor, F. W. (1911) <i>The Principles of Scientific Management</i>. New York: Harper Bros. pp. 5-29. Retrieved online: <a href="http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1911taylor.asp">http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1911taylor.asp</a></li> <li>• deWinter, J. Kocurek, C. A., Nichols, R. (2014). Taylorism 2.0: Gamification, scientific management and the capitalist appropriation of play. <i>Journal of</i></li> </ul>

		<p><i>Gaming &amp; virtual worlds</i>. 6(2): pp. 109-127. Available from:  <a href="http://proxy.library.brocku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&amp;db=edb&amp;AN=98054280&amp;site=eds-live&amp;scope=site">http://proxy.library.brocku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&amp;db=edb&amp;AN=98054280&amp;site=eds-live&amp;scope=site</a></p>
<p>10 - Tuesday Nov. 22</p>	<p><b>Commodification of Information</b></p> <p><i>Due: Group presentation (3rd of 3 dates)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commodification and culture in the information society (Hassan Chapter 5), pp. 135-158.</li> <li>• Cohen, N. S. (2008). The valorization of surveillance: Towards a political economy of Facebook. <i>Democratic Communication</i>, 22(1), 5-22. Available online:  <a href="http://proxy.library.brocku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&amp;db=ufh&amp;AN=32997267&amp;site=eds-live&amp;scope=site">http://proxy.library.brocku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&amp;db=ufh&amp;AN=32997267&amp;site=eds-live&amp;scope=site</a></li> </ul>
<p>11 - Tuesday Nov. 29</p>	<p><b>Control</b></p> <p><i>Due: Loyalty app: Essay</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faster and faster (Hassan Chapter 6), pp: 159-189.</li> <li>• Who rules?: Politics and control in the information society and (Hassan Chapter 7), pp. 190-223</li> <li>• Deluze, G. (1992). Postscript on the societies of control. <i>October</i>, pp. 3-7.  <a href="http://proxy.library.brocku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&amp;db=edsjsr&amp;AN=edsjsr.778828&amp;site=eds-live&amp;scope=site">http://proxy.library.brocku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&amp;db=edsjsr&amp;AN=edsjsr.778828&amp;site=eds-live&amp;scope=site</a></li> </ul>
<p>12 - Tuesday Dec. 6</p>	<p><b>Wrap-up and exam review</b></p> <p><i>Due: Participation report</i></p>	

# Department of Communication, Popular Culture and Film

## Pledge of Academic Integrity [Adapted for COMM 2P26]

Please read the following statement, sign it, and submit. Your assignments will not be graded unless this form is attached or received earlier in the term.

I, the undersigned, understand that all the following practices constitute academic misconduct according to Brock University's policy on academic misconduct and general academic practice:

- Quoting someone else's words without using quotation marks
- Quoting someone else's words without acknowledging the source
- Using someone else's ideas in my own words without acknowledging the source
- Using someone else's argument in my own words without acknowledging the source
- Fabricating data or sources of information for an assignment, bibliography or list of works cited
- Having or employing someone else to write all or part of my assignment, or do all or some of the preparatory work for me. There are two exceptions to this rule: I may have or employ someone to type the final assignment make editorial comments. However, I take full responsibility for any errors introduced by a typist or editor
- Allowing another student to use material from my assignment when drafting his or her own assignment
- Writing all or part of an assignment for another student, or doing all or some of the preparatory work for him or her. Such preparatory work includes (but is not limited to) reading and note-taking from required books and articles.
- Submitting any work for credit in two or more courses

I confirm that I have not committed any form of academic misconduct for COMM 2P26 and will uphold academic integrity throughout the course.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Department of Communication, Popular Culture and Film

## Statement on: Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is a serious offence. The principle of academic integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students should consult Section VII, "Academic Misconduct", in the "Academic Regulations and University Policies" entry in the Undergraduate Calendar, available at [brocku.ca/webcal](http://brocku.ca/webcal), to view a fuller description of prohibited actions, and the procedures and penalties which may be applied.

Academic misconduct includes plagiarism (presenting the words and ideas of another person as if they were your own), submitting the same work for two different assignments, and other forms of cheating such as using crib notes during a test or fabricating data for a lab assignment.

Instructors and teaching assistants in the Department thoroughly investigate all suspected cases of academic misconduct.

The penalties for documented cases of academic misconduct can be severe. The Department may recommend that a grade of zero be given for the assignment, and a failing grade if not a grade of zero be given for the course. In addition, a note will be attached to the student's academic transcript. A second offence can result in suspension from the University. The disciplinary process is administered initially at the Department level and in cases where academic penalty is assigned will be referred to the offices of the Dean of Social Sciences.

Make yourself aware of the issues involved. Read the section of the Undergraduate Calendar that pertains to academic misconduct. You are reminded that the Student Development Centre (Schmon Tower, Room 400) offers workshops on writing skills, and issues surrounding plagiarism.

For further information on all aspects of your academic program, including course planning, you may consult with the Department's Academic Advisor:

**Penni Lafleur**, SBH 344, ext. 5308 , [plafleur@brocku.ca](mailto:plafleur@brocku.ca)>