

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.84-26

## MEMORANDUM

o..... SENATE.....

From..... SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDIES.

Subject.. COMMUNICATION CURRICULUM CHANGES.....

Date..... 15. MARCH. 1984.....

1. Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of March 20, 1984 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION: "That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.84-26 the proposed new course

CMNS 221-3 Media and Audiences  
with discontinuation of  
CMNS 220-3 Introduction to Interpersonal Communication"

Subject to approval of the course by Senate and the Board of Governors the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies gave approval for waiver of the normal two-semester time lag requirement in order that the course may be first offered in Fall 1984.

2. Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of April 24, 1984 gives rise to the following motion:-

MOTION: "That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.84-26, the proposed

New courses - CMNS 353-4 The Social Impacts of Information  
Technology  
CMNS 453-5 The Information Society

with discontinuation of

CMNS 300-5 Introduction to Systems Theory  
in Communication  
CMNS 402-5 Communication in Organizations:  
A Systems Perspective, respectively"

Subject to the approval of the above courses by Senate and the Board of Governors the committee approved waiver of the normal two semester time lag requirement in order that these courses may be first offered in Spring 85-1.

COMMUNICATION CURRICULUM CHANGES - continued  
PAGE 2

FOR INFORMATION:

Acting under delegated authority at its meeting of March 20, 1984 the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies approved prerequisite change for CMNS 360-4 Fundamentals of Communication Research -

FROM: 45 semester hours credit; at least 2 lower  
division courses in Communication

TO: 45 semester hours credit; including at least  
2 lower division courses in Communication; and  
PSYC 210-3 or MATH 101-3 or MATH 102-3

Acting under delegated authority at its meeting of April 24, 1984 the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies approved change of title as follows:

CMNS 253-3 FROM Computers and Communication  
TO Introduction to Information Technology

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

SCUS 84-7

To.....H.M. Evans, Registrar and  
Secretary to the Senate Cmtee.  
.....on Undergraduate Studies.....

From.....Janet Blanchet, Secretary to the  
Faculty of I.D.S.  
.....Undergraduate Curriculum Cmtee.....

Subject...New Course Proposal CMNS 221-3  
Media and Audiences (ISC 84-1)

Date.....1984-02-16.....

Our File No. 1H1(i)

At a meeting of the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, held on Tuesday, February 14, 1984, members of the committee reviewed and approved the above-named course.

Would you please place this item on the next agenda of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.



Janet Blanchet

JB:mf

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 21 1984**

**REGISTRATION OFFICE  
MAIL DESK**

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

Calendar Information

Department: Communication

Abbreviation Code: CMNS Course Number: 221

Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 2-0-1

Title of Course: Media and Audiences

Calendar Description of Course:

An introduction to the study of popular culture and communication, with a focus on the organization and role of audience groups in the production and dissemination of media-based popular culture forms. Practices and interests of production and patterns of consumption among social groups are analyzed in terms of the relationship between industries and audiences. The interplay between media in society and cultural activity is a basic theme of the course.

Nature of Course lecture/tutorial

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

CMNS 110-3 or 130-3.

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: CMNS 220-3

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? once per year

Semester in which the course will first be offered? Fall 1984

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? Laba, Lorimer

3. Objectives of the Course

This course is designed as the first in a two-course sequence, and is followed by CMNS 321-4. It is intended to evaluate and analyze the nature and development of popular culture productions, industries, technologies and audiences, and focus on the structure and function of production practices and audience groups in media in general and popular music media in particular.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty

Staff

Library

Audio Visual

Space

Equipment

None.

5. Approval

Date: 19 Dec 83

[Signature]

[Signature]

19 Feb 84

Department Chairman

Dean

Chairman, SCUS

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL: CMNS 221-3, Media and Audiences

I. Rationale:

This course is designed as the first in a two-course sequence, and is followed by CMNS 321-4, Communication and Culture in Musical Form: The Popular Idiom, which has been offered since 1981.

Together these courses evaluate and analyze the nature and development of popular culture productions, industries, technologies, and audiences, and focus on the structure and function of production practices and consumption patterns in popular culture in general, and popular music media in particular.

CMNS 221, Media and Audiences, introduces the study of popular culture and communication, and analyzes the organization and role of audience groups in the generation and dissemination of media-based popular culture forms. The relationship between media and culture then, constitutes the essential theme of the course.

Popular culture has been conceptualized in various theoretical analyses, case studies, and historical treatments devoted to it as a matrix of symbolic forms established and situated through technological means, and disseminated over varied audience contexts. These factors of symbolicity, technology, and dissemination are further qualified by the realm of human cultural activity -- the social action of individuals and groups as they identify, integrate, and legitimize their experience in everyday life by making sense of, and meaning from the symbolic forms of popular culture. In this way, popular culture is inextricably tied to social practices, and in particular, those practices by which social groups respond to certain material conditions of life. This course examines the interdeterminate relationship between media and audiences through the analysis of popular culture process and production in society. To this end, the contemporary popular music media are introduced and analyzed in terms of industries and audiences, commodities and cultural forms, production interests and practices and patterns and strategies of consumption.

II. Principal Instructor's Qualifications:

Martin Laba has worked in, as well as taught about media. His experience as a television composer and radio broadcaster provide a practical dimension to the analysis of popular culture process and production in this course. He designed and teaches CMNS 321. His academic areas of specialization include critical analysis of media and popular culture and communications, and his forthcoming book, co-edited with Peter Narvaez, Media Sense: Folklore and Popular Culture, focusses on these areas.

CMNS 221-3

MEDIA AND AUDIENCES

Course Outline

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This class is organized in a lecture/tutorial format with a 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial each week.

Week-by-week Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Introduction: Popular Culture and the Media.
2	Historical Perspective: Popular Culture and Society.
3	Media and Society: Theories and Issues.
4	Cultural Studies Approaches
5	Understanding Audiences.
6	The Industrialization of Culture (I).
7	The Industrialization of Culture (II).
8	Technology and Cultural Form.
9	Commodities, Consumption and Social Order.
10	Case Study: The Structure of the Popular Music Industry.
11	Making Meaning: Production.
12	Making Meaning: Audiences.
13	Summary and Conclusions: Toward a Theory of Popular Culture for Communication.

Required Texts:

Denisoff, R. Serge, Solid Gold: The Popular Record Industry. New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction, 1975.

Hebdige, Dick, Subculture: The Meaning of Style. London: Methuen, 1979.

Murdock, Graham and P. Hartman, Understanding Audiences. London: Methuen, 1984.

Weighting of Course Grade:

Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Paper	35%
Final Exam	30%
Tutorial Participation	15%

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# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

SCUS 84-11

To..... Mr...H.M...Evans,..Registrar and Secretary to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.....

From..... Janet Blanchet Administrative Assistant Faculty of I.D.S.....

Subject..... NEW COURSE PROPOSALS,..... CMNS 353-4, THE SOCIAL IMPACTS

Date..... March 22, 1984.....

OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CMNS 453-5, THE INFORMATION SOCIETY  
(ISC 84-1)

At a Meeting of the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee held on January 17, 1984 the above-noted courses were considered and approved.

Would you please place these courses on the next agenda of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.

*J.B. Blanchet*

JB/rj  
Encl:

SI MON FRASER UNIVERSITY

(ISC 84-01)

MEMORANDUM

To: Janet Blanchet, Assistant to the  
Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Subject: New Communication Course Proposals

From: Rowland Lorimer, Chairman,  
Undergraduate Studies Committee,  
Department of Communication  
Date: 20 December 1983

Please place the following on the agenda for the next meeting of the Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

New Course Proposals:

- \*\* CMNS 221-3 "Media and Audiences"  
CMNS 353-4 "The Social Impacts of Information Technology"  
CMNS 453-5 "The Information Society"

Change of Prerequisite Only:

- \*\* CMNS 360-4 "Fundamentals of Communication Research"

Change of Title Only:

- CMNS 253-3 "Computers and Communication"

Please note as per ISC 83-26 these course changes are part of the restructuring of the departmental offerings to reflect our anticipated resources for the foreseeable future. The only further changes to be brought forward are in the general introduction to the department in the calendar.

*R. Lorimer per lcm*  
Rowland Lorimer

RL:lcm

Attachments

Registrar's Note: \*\* These items were approved by SCUS on March 20, 1984.

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## New Course Proposal

### Communication 353: The Social Impacts of Information Technology

This course examines a particular application of information/communication technology. The examination focusses on the technology itself and its capabilities, how it is implemented, and what social impacts it has on the people who use it. Emphasis is placed on understanding how the system works in the on-going social context in which it is developed, installed, and used. The specific application studied will vary from semester to semester.

Prerequisites: CMNS 253; CMNS 130 recommended.

#### I. Rationale

This course is designed as the second in a three-course series, following after CMNS 253, Introduction to Information Technology; and preceding CMNS 453, The Information Society.

The basic unifying theme in the three courses is an assessment of the interplay between contemporary society and new computer/communications technologies.

Where CMNS 253 is an introductory course which does not deal with social impacts to any great extent, this course assumes students have some background in the general area and focusses on a specific kind of application of the technology in a particular context. The goal of this course is to provide an introduction to social impacts of the new technologies and to illustrate this introduction with a number of case studies. The focus is rather more limited than that of CMNS 453, which examines societal issues on a much broader scale.

#### II. The Principal Instructor

William Richards has experience teaching and conducting research in organizational communication and organizational applications of information technology over the past seven years. He is a founding member of the Laboratory for Computer and Communication Research at SFU, and is currently conducting a two-year evaluation of the federal Department of Communication's Office Communication Systems office automation field trial in the federal Department of the Environment.

### III. Resources required

Library: Holdings are fairly substantial in the area already, but a few additional books and one or two additional journal subscriptions will be helpful.

Computer: The course will make occasional use of both the University's computing centre (MTS) and the Department of Communication's IBM Personal Computer system. Depending on the Department's ability to supplement the IBM PC with some additional hardware and software, there may be a need for additional time on the campus facility. From time to time the course will also utilize the Local Area Network system of the Laboratory for Computer and Communication Research.

### IV. Frequency of Offering and Enrollment

once per year  
between 30 and 50 students per offering

### V. Format

The course is structured in a lecture/seminar format, with two 2-hour sessions each week. It is essential that all students read carefully the entire assignment in advance of the class session.

For each class session, three students will be assigned in advance as primary respondents to the readings. Students are responsible for participation in class discussions in all sessions. Each student will have three respondent assignments during the semester.

### VI. Course Grading

Assignment #1	week 5	20%
Assignment #2	week 9	25%
Term paper	week 13	35%
Participation		20%

#### Assignment #1:

Compare and contrast two of the case study systems in the readings. Focus the discussion on the capabilities of the two systems, the goals of the systems, and the implementation processes used. Length -- 8 pages typewritten.

#### Assignment #2:

Discuss the social context in which two of the case study systems were used. Identify relevant social issues and indicate how they are related to the technology. Length -- 8 pages typewritten.

Term Paper:

Pick three aspects of the social context in which the technology is used that makes assessment of the social impact both important and difficult to do. Explain why you picked these aspects, why they are important, and why they make impact assessment difficult to do. Length: 15 pages, typed.

Spring, 1985

CMNS 353-4

The Social Impacts of Information Technology:  
The "Office of the Future" -- Office Automation Systems

<u>Week #</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1.	Introduction: the "office of the future" is here now. Information technology -- off the shelf and on the drawing board.
2.	The 1960's and 70's -- a technology in its infancy. The background of office technology. The Canadian office automation industry.
3.	Into the 80's -- What is available now? What does it do? How does it work? Who is using it?
4.	Case studies drawn from currently available organizational examples. When possible, case studies will draw upon Canadian experiences.
5.	The social and technical components of electronic office systems I: User needs and system design.
6.	Social and technical components II: the man-machine interface.
7.	Social and technical components III: avoiding 'non-solutions' for users' needs.
8.	Evaluating electronic office systems I: needs, methods, consequences.
9.	Evaluating II: productivity assessment and cost/benefit analysis.
10.	Evaluating III: problems in technology assessment.
11.	The implementation of electronic office systems: problems and methods.
12.	The management of electronic office systems: issues and dynamics.
13.	The "office of the future": for better or worse?

A schedule of specific reading assignments will be distributed the semester before the course is offered.



Readings

Required readings will be selected from the following:

The Automated Office Institute for Research on Public Policy, 1981.

The Electronic Briefcase " " " " " "

Emerging Office Systems Landau, Bair, & Seigman (eds), 1982.

Office Automation Don Tapscott, Plenum Press, 1982.

The Social Impact of Office Automation P. Booth, DOC, 1983.

The Information Revolution and its Implications for Canada Serafini & Andrieu, DOC, 1981.

Additional readings will be selected from other reports from DOC, IRPP, Wescom, and Science Council.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department: Communication

Abbreviation Code: CMNS Course Number: 453

Credit Hours: 5 Vector: 3-2-0

Title of Course: The Information Society

Calendar Description of Course:

This course assesses the interplay between contemporary society and the new computer/communications technologies, at the level of comprehensive theories of society, on the one hand, and major public policy documents, on the other. Central concepts reviewed include: post-industrial society, technological rationality, the information economy, social impacts of new technologies, and technocracy

Nature of Course

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

CMNS 253-3 and CMNS 353-4, or permission of the instructor.

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: CMNS 402

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? once each academic year

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 1985-1

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? W. Leiss, W.D. Richards, L. Salter, W. Melody

3. Objectives of the Course

This course is designed as the third and last in a sequence (following CMNS 253-3, Computers and Communication\*, and CMNS 353-4, The Social Impacts of Information Technology. Whereas the earlier courses introduce the student to some of the specific areas where social factors interact with new technologies, CMNS 453-5 takes up these issues at a theoretical and advanced level.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty none

Staff none

Library none

Audio Visual none

Space none

Equipment none

5. Approval

Date: 29 November 1983

22 Nov 84

[Signature]

Department Chairman

[Signature]

Dean

[Signature]  
Chairman, SCUS

\* Note: Title changing to "Introduction to Information Technology".

SCUS 73-34b: (When completing this form, for instructions see Memorandum SCUS 73-34a. attach course outline).

## New Course Proposal:

### CMNS 453-5, The Information Society.

#### I. Rationale

This course is designed as the third in a three-course sequence, following generally after CMNS 253-3, Computers and Communication, which has been offered for some time, and another new course, CMNS 353-4, Social Impacts of Information Technology.

The basic, unifying theme in the three courses is an assessment of the interplay between contemporary society and new computer/communications technologies.

CMNS 453, The Information Society, looks at this interplay on the most general level, where academic writers as well as policymakers have considered the most pervasive, reciprocal effects of the two components (society and technology) on each other. On this general level, the effects are considered to be fundamental ones, influencing many major aspects of social relations -- for example, privacy, the role of women in the workforce, international trade position, office management, occupational structures, etc.

The reciprocal interplay of society and technology, especially in the domain of computer/communications technologies, where significant technical innovations are a regular occurrence, is now an important subject area for both academic research and public policy discussions. The basic purpose of this new course is to tie together the academic and policy literature, to examine each in the light of the other, and to assess both the theory and practice of the social developments that are subsumed under the designation "The Information Society."

#### II. Principal Instructor's Qualifications

William Leiss has published a series of articles in the period 1970-present on the general theme of the social consequences of technology (see bibliography attached), as well as a related book, The Domination of Nature (1972, 1974). He has designed and taught courses similar to this proposed course previously at York University and the University of Toronto. His conference paper, "The Information Society" (1982), has been read at the University of Calgary, Université du Québec à Montréal, Trent University, and McGill University.

## THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

## Course Outline

This class is conducted in a lecture/seminar format, with two 2-hour sessions each week. It is essential that all students read carefully the entire assignment in advance of the class session.

Week-by-Week Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1	I	Introduction to Course	
	II	Organization of Presentations	
2	I	Historical Development	Kumar, chs. 1-5
	II	Technology and Society: Introduction	Leiss, articles.
3	I	Technological Rationality	Leiss, articles.
	II	Utopian View of Technology	Gendron, Part One.
4	I	Dystopian View of Technology	Gendron, Part Two.
	II	Socialist View of Technology	Gendron, Part Three.
5	I	Post-Industrial Society	Bell, Intro., ch. 1.
	II	The Service Society	Bell, chs. 2-3.
6	I	Technocracy	Bell, chs. 4-6.
	II	Critique of Bell	Bell, "Coda"; Kumar, chs. 6-7.
7	I	Mid-Term Review	
	II	Technology as "Radical Monopoly"	Illich (complete).
8	I	Politics of Technology	Dickson, Intro., chs. 1-3.
	II	Utopian Technologies	Dickson, chs. 4-7.
9	I	Concept of Information Society	Bell article
	II	The Information Economy	DOC Report
10	I	Values and Public Policy	Rein, Intro., chs. 1-2.
	II	"Mediation"	GAMMA Report, Part 1.
11	I	Policy Analysis	Rein, chs. 3-4.
	II	Impacts of Information Technologies	GAMMA Report, Part 2.
12	I	Case Studies in Social Policy	Rein, chs. 5-7.
	II	Recommendations for Government Policy	Science Council Report
13	I	Summary: Technology and Society	
	II	Summary: Public Policy for the Information Society.	

Required Reading:

Daniel BELL, The Coming of Post-Industrial Society.  
 Daniel BELL, "The Social Framework of the Information Society."  
 David DICKSON, Alternative Technology and the Politics of Technical Change.  
 Bernard GENDRON, Technology and the Human Condition.  
 Ivan ILLICH, Tools for Conviviality.  
 William LEISS, "The False Imperatives of Technology" (collection of articles).  
 Martin REIN, Social Science and Public Policy.

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Department of Communication (Ottawa), "The Information Revolution and its Implications for Canada."

GAMMA, "The Information Society: The Issues and the Choices."

Science Council of Canada, "Planning Now for an Information Society."

Weighting of Course Grade:

25%: Class Presentation and Participation.

25%: Mid-Term Paper.

50%: Final Paper.

Class Participation:

Every student will be responsible for participation in class discussions for every session. For each session a number of students will be assigned in advance as primary respondents. Each student will have four such assignments during the semester.

Mid-Term Paper:

Length: 10 pages (typewritten). Topic: discuss the chief strengths and weaknesses in Daniel Bell's The Coming of Post-Industrial Society. (Note: Do not summarize or paraphrase the text. Devote the entire paper to a critical evaluation of the book.)

Final Paper:

Length: 15 pages (typewritten). Topic: the following recommendation has been made to the Department of Communications, Ottawa: The Government of Canada should prepare a comprehensive set of policies to ensure that the new information technologies become a major factor in influencing social change in Canada. Evaluate this recommendation. (For example: What are the main features of an "informationsociety"? What policies are appropriate in this context? Should the federal and/or the provincial governments have a broad policy responsibility in this field -- or should it be left to private consumer and producer decisions? Why?)

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# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To.....H.M. Evans, Registrar and.....  
Secretary to the Senate Cmtee.  
.....on Undergraduate Studies.....

From.....Janet Blanchet, Secretary to the...  
Faculty of I.D.S.  
.....Undergraduate Curriculum Cmtee,....

Subject...Prerequisite Change CMNS. 360-4.....  
Fundamentals of Communication Research

Date.....1984-02-16.....

(ISC 84-1)

Our File No. 1H1(i)

At a meeting of the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, held on Tuesday, February 14, 1984, members of the committee approved a prerequisite change for the above-noted course as follows:

OLD 45 semester hours credit; at least 2 lower division courses in Communication

NEW 45 semester hours credit; including at least 2 lower division courses in Communication; and PSYC 210-3 or MATH 101-3 or MATH 102-3.

Would you please place this item on the next agenda of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.



Janet Blanchet

JB:mf

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To..... Mr. H.M. Evans.....  
Registrar and Secretary to  
the Senate Committee on  
Undergraduate Studies  
Subject..... COURSE TITLE CHANGE ONLY.....  
CMNS 253-3, INTRODUCTION TO

From..... Janet Blanchet.....  
Administrative Assistant  
Faculty of I.D.S.....  
Date..... March 22, 1984.....

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (ISC 84-1)

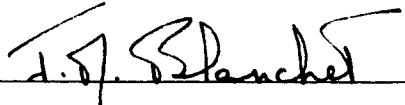
At a Meeting held on January 17, 1984 the following change in title was approved:

OLD TITLE. CMNS 253-3, Computers and Communication

NEW TITLE. CMNS 253-3, Introduction to Information Technology

Would you please place this item on the next agenda of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.

JB/rj  
Encl:

  
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