Introduction to Theory in Telecommunication, Information, and Society

This course will introduce you to classic and contemporary theories of communication. Special emphasis will be placed on theoretical approaches to understanding telecommunication, new media, and technology. To the extent possible, we will meet as a seminar, with student participation crucial to the conversation.

Required Text
Coursepack, available from the College Store, Hannah Plaza (4790 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing)

Course Requirements
Each student will make one 15-minute class presentation, based on a scholarly article. There will be a mid-term examination, covering the readings, lectures, and discussion. And each student will write a 12-15-page term paper, applying theory to a practical problem.

Grading
Percent of Semester Grade
- Mid-term exam 30%
- Class presentation 20%
- Term paper 40%
- Class participation 10%

Reading Schedule


September 27  Castells, “An introduction to the information age”; Webster, “The information

October 4 Rogers & Singhal, “Diffusion of innovations”; Rice & Webster, “Adoption, diffusion, and use of new media.”


October 18 **Mid-term Exam**

October 25 McMillan, “Exploring models of interactivity from multiple research traditions”; Heeter, “Interactivity in the context of designed experiences.”


November 29 Plant, “On the mobile: the effects of mobile telephones on social and individual life.”

December 6 No reading.
Important Dates
October 18       Mid-term Exam (in class)
December 13     Term paper due by 5 pm

Prof. Levy’s Contact Information and Office Hours
Phone: (517) 355-8372; E-mail: mlevy@msu.edu
Room 409, Comm Arts & Sciences Building

Monday, 2:00-3:00 pm
Wednesday, 9:00-11:00 am or by appointment.

Accommodations for Disabilities
Students should contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to establish reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor, call 353-9642 (voice) or 355-1293 (TTY).

Department Policy on Plagiarism & Academic Integrity
Plagiarism means presenting, as one's own, the words, creative work or opinions of someone else. You commit plagiarism if you submit as your own work:
1. Part or all of an assignment copied from another person's manuscript or notes, spoken words, sounds, or images.
2. Part or all of an assignment copied or paraphrased from a source, such as a book, magazine, journal, Web page, or creative product.
3. The sequence of ideas, arrangement of ideas or images, or pattern of thought of someone else, even though you express them in your own words, sounds or images. Plagiarism occurs when such a sequence of ideas is transferred from a source without the process of digestion, integration and reorganization in the writer's mind, and without acknowledgement.
4. A paper written for you by someone else.
5. An entire work or substantive part of a work that you submitted for another course to a second course without the permission of BOTH of the instructors involved.

You are an accomplice in plagiarism and equally guilty if you:
1. Allow your paper or creative project, in outline or finished form, to be copied and submitted as the work of another.
2. Prepare an assignment for another student and allow it to be submitted as his or her work.
3. Keep or contribute materials to a group project with the clear intent that these be copied and submitted as the work of anyone other than the author. (The student who knows that his or her work is being copied is presumed to consent to its being copied.) The penalties described in the MSU honor code shall apply.

You can avoid plagiarism by:
1. Clearly identifying anything you copy directly from another source (e.g., by using quotation marks).
2. Citing or otherwise acknowledging all ideas that are not your own, including anything that you copy directly or that you paraphrase, modify or “sample.”
3. Including appropriate acknowledgments or citations throughout the body of your work, as opposed to merely listing general sources at the end.
4. Never “downloading” anything from the Internet into your work product without acknowledging the source.
5. Consulting these helpful hints at: [http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/plagiarism2.htm](http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/plagiarism2.htm)

Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "the student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies, and Media adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades, in the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades, and in Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities, which are included in Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide. Students who commit an act of academic dishonesty may receive a 0.0 on the assignment or in the course.

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