



## Syllabus

### **SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES** **SOC 305: Social Media and Society**

5 Credits  
Effective: Spring 2014/2015

*Access to the Internet is required.  
All written assignments must be in Microsoft-Word-compatible formats.  
See the library's APA Style Guide tutorial for a list of resources that can help you use APA style.*

## **FACULTY**

Faculty Name: FACULTY NAME

Contact Information: CONTACT INFORMATION

[INSTRUCTOR MAY INSERT PERSONAL MESSAGE IF DESIRED]

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Social media has become one of the most important tools of human interaction. Social media is also a source of information. In this course, students will examine how various types of social media shape people's lives and social reality. This course will also look at social inequalities, such as age, gender, and socio-economic status, and their impacts on perception, access, and use of social media.

## **COURSE RESOURCES**

Required and recommended resources to complete coursework and assignments are found on the course Reading List. The reading list can be found under Course Information in Blackboard as well as from the library homepage.

Note: Required resources that must be purchased by the student are tagged "Purchase from a vendor of your choosing." Required resources with a direct link, "Available through CityU Library", are available at no cost to students.

Students in Canada will see required resources they need to purchase tagged "Purchase from the Canadian Bookstore." Students outside the U.S. and Canada should contact their advisor or textbook coordinator for additional information.

## **COURSE OUTCOMES**

In this course, learners:

- Analyze how social inequalities impact social media use
- Examine social issues and challenges of computer-mediated communication
- Explore the role of social media in collective action

## OVERVIEW OF COURSE GRADING

The grades earned for the course will be derived using City University of Seattle's decimal grading system, based on the following:

<i>Overview of Required Assignments</i>	<i>% of Final Grade</i>
Course Activities	40%
Social Change Paper	30%
Social Issue Paper	30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## SPECIFICS OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The instructor will provide grading rubrics with more detail as to how this assignment will be graded.

### Course Activities

Students are expected to participate in weekly discussions and activities. Discussions and activities may include group projects, short papers, individual discussion assignments, research, case study analysis, peer critique, journals, blogs, quizzes, or other activities determined by the instructor.

Class participation through discussion and activities is an integral part of the course. Participation is defined as active engagement in a discussion or other activity.

To provide a structure for balanced participation and allow students to maximize the benefit of the online discussion board, it is recommended that students follow these guidelines: 1) Post responses to discussion questions in the first three days of the school week (Monday through Wednesday); 2) Post three or more thoughtful and topic-relevant comments to responses made by classmates during the last four days of the school week (Thursday through Sunday); 3) Make postings on at least three different days of the school week; and 4) Respond to any questions that the instructor or peers have regarding the student's original post by the end of the school week.

<i>Components</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Meets requirements in a timely manner	15%
Quality of responses	70%
Quantity of responses	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Social Change Paper

Students will investigate how social media impacts social change and action by analyzing a political or social movement. Students are expected to look at how social inequalities and other sociological concepts discussed in the course impact the use of social media in the context of social movements and collective action. The instructor will provide additional details on the topic. The six- to eight-page paper, not including the title page and bibliography, must be in APA style and include at least five sources.

<i>Components</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Organization and coherence	20%
Evidence and support	30%
Analysis and use of course concepts	30%
Style and mechanics	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Social Issue Paper

Students will examine a potential danger, challenge, or social issue associated with computer-mediated communication and discuss how it impacts society. Students will select a topic dealing with privacy, anonymity, cyberbullying, Internet addiction, or another potential danger, challenge, or social issue. Ethical and legal dimensions of the topic, as well as solutions, will also be addressed in the paper. The instructor will provide additional details on the topic. The six- to eight-page paper, not including the title page and bibliography, must be in APA style and include at least five sources.

<i>Components</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Organization and coherence	20%
Evidence and support	30%
Analysis and use of course concepts	30%
Style and mechanics	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Late Assignments**

LATE ASSIGNMENT

### **Participation**

PARTICIPATION

### **Professional Writing**

Assignments require error-free writing that uses standard English conventions and logical flow of organization to address topics clearly, completely, and concisely. CityU requires the use of APA style.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

You are responsible for understanding and adhering to all of City University of Seattle's academic policies. The most current versions of these policies can be found in the [University Catalog](#) that is linked from the CityU Web site.

### **Non-Discrimination & Prohibition of Sexual Misconduct**

City University of Seattle adheres to all federal, state, and local civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and education. The University is committed to ensuring that the education environment is bounded by standards of mutual respect and safety and is free from discriminatory practices.

In the U.S., the University is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that all of its education programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of sex/gender. Sex include sex, sex stereotypes, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy or parenting status. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking are forms of sex discrimination, which are prohibited under Title IX and by City University of Seattle policy. City University of Seattle also prohibits retaliation against any person opposing discrimination or participating in any discrimination investigation or complaint process internal or external to the institution. Questions regarding Title IX, including its application and/or concerns about noncompliance, should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator. For a complete copy of the policy or for more information, visit <https://my.cityu.edu/titleix> or contact the Title IX Coordinator.

In Canada, in compliance with the British Columbia Human Rights Code, the Alberta Human Rights Act, WorksafeBC, and the Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta, the University believes that its environment should at all times be supportive and respectful of the dignity and self-esteem of individuals. Discrimination, harassment and bullying conduct, whether through person to person behaviour or via electronic communications such as email or social media is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. As an educational institution, it is our responsibility to cultivate an environment of excellence, equity, mutual respect and to recognize the value and potential of every individual. The University will take all necessary steps to meet or exceed the requirements of the law to prevent discrimination, harassment and bullying. The Respectful Workplace Policy for the prevention of discrimination, harassment and bullying policy and procedure can be found at <https://www.cityu.edu/discover-cityu/about-cityu/> under the Policies section or at <https://www.cityuniversity.ca/about/>.

### **Religious Accommodations**

City University of Seattle has a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The University's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available in the University Catalog and on the my.cityu.edu student portal. Accommodations must be requested by the 20% mark of this course (e.g. day 14 of a ten-week course, day 7 of a 5-week course) using the Religious Accommodations Request Form found on the student dashboard in the my.cityu.edu student portal.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity in students requires the pursuit of scholarly activity that is free from fraud, deception and unauthorized collaboration with other individuals. Students are responsible for understanding CityU's policy on academic integrity and adhering to its standards in meeting all course requirements. A complete copy of this policy can be found in the University Catalog in the section titled [Academic Integrity Policy](#) under Student Rights & Responsibilities.

### **Attendance**

Students taking courses in any format at the University are expected to be diligent in their studies and to attend class regularly.

Regular class attendance is important in achieving learning outcomes in the course and may be a valid consideration in determining the final grade. For classes where a physical presence is required, a student has attended if they are present at any time during the class session. For online classes, a student has attended if they have posted or submitted an assignment. A complete copy of this policy can be found in the [University Catalog](#) in the section titled Attendance under Student Rights & Responsibilities.

### **Final Assignments Due Date**

Final assignments for each class at CityU must be due on or before the final date of the course as indicated in the university's course information system. Due dates that extend beyond the final date of the course may negatively impact tuition funding for students.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Disability Services Accommodations Statement**

Students with documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Please contact Disability Support Services at [disability@cityu.edu](mailto:disability@cityu.edu) or 206.2369.4752 or visit the [Disability Support Services](#) page in the my.cityu.edu portal. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about academic accommodations will be shared with your course instructors.

### **Library Services**

CityU librarians are available to help students find the resources and information they need to succeed in this course. Contact a CityU librarian through the [Ask a Librarian](#) service, or access [library resources and services](#) online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **Smarthinking Tutoring**

CityU students have 24/7 access to free online tutoring offered through Smarthinking, including writing support, from certified tutors. Contact CityU's Student Support Center at [mycityusupport@cityu.edu](mailto:mycityusupport@cityu.edu) to request a username and password.