

# ***Can YouTube Save the World? (FRES 1020)***

*Professor:* Dr. Jay Hamilton  
*Room and time:* Journalism 204, Wednesdays, 2:30–3:20 p.m.  
*Office and office hours:* Journalism 226; Thursday, 3:00–4:00  
*Office phone and e-mail:* 542-3556; [hamilton@uga.edu](mailto:hamilton@uga.edu)

**NOTE:** The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

**WEBCT:** This course has a companion WebCT site to enable email communication, distribution of course materials, and access to grades. Access it through <http://webct.uga.edu/> using your UGA MyID login.

The University of Georgia is committed to the full inclusion of all students. Students who, by nature of a documented disability, require academic accommodations should contact me before or after class or during office hours. Students may also speak with Disability Services at 542-8719 to discuss the process for requesting accommodations.

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The University of Georgia will act in matters of employment, admissions, programs, services, and activities free of prohibited bias with regard to race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, and disability. Continuation of the above policies is consistent with applicable provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Education Amendments of 1972, Executive Order 11246, Revised Order 4, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as revised and/or amended, with implementing regulations.

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## **Course description**

This seminar explores communications technologies, from the current crop of Internet applications and social media back to the radio, telegraph, photography, and more. We'll investigate what people at the time had to say about them in order to explore relationships between communications technology and society.

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## Books

- Online readings.

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## Policies

### *Expectations and requirements*

- Consistent and punctual attendance.
- Consistent, informed, and respectful class participation.
- Conscientious, thorough, and thoughtful reading of any assigned materials prior to their discussion in class.

### *Electronic communication*

WebCT and e-mail communication are accepted at the university as official means of correspondence. Students are responsible for checking the class WebCT site regularly for any changes or updates to the course, and for checking their officially registered e-mail account once a day for any official communication regarding this course.

### *Coursework*

- **One-page analysis of popular-press commentary regarding a communications technology (60% of final grade; due Aug. 26 and any five of ten sessions between Sept. 16–Nov. 18).**

You'll find and read a popular-press article about the communications technologies for that week. After printing out a hardcopy of the article and highlighting key information or claims, you'll write a one-page summary of the key information or claims, then hand in the article hardcopy stapled to your summary. More information will be distributed during the semester.

- **Four-page final essay (40% of final grade; due Dec. 2).**

This essay helps you describe and assess a key trend or pattern you've observed in the readings throughout the semester. More information will be distributed during the semester.

### *Policy for late work and make-up work*

*All work is due on days and times as indicated. A late penalty of 10 percent per day will be assessed against work turned in late. Even if work is handed in ten minutes past the time noted in the syllabus, it is deemed late and points are deducted accordingly.*

Depending on the situation, the late penalty may be waived and make-up work arranged with the instructor. Acceptable reasons: a) documented medical appointments, b) documented emergencies in one's immediate family, c) documented absences for participation in a religious holiday, d) documented, required participation in an official university activity. Written documentation is required.

If at all possible, contact the instructor *prior to* the anticipated absence to make arrangements. If not possible, contact the instructor within two days of the absence. If contacted after that time, the absence cannot be accommodated.

### *Computing letter grades*

Points for each graded assignment and total points for the semester are located on the scale below to determine letter grades.

93-100 = A (4.0)	83-86 = B (3.0)	73-76 = C (2.0)
90-92 = A- (3.7)	80-82 = B- (2.7)	70-72 = C- (1.7)
87-89 = B+ (3.3)	77-79 = C+ (2.3)	60-69 = D (1.0)

### *Withdrawals*

If you decide to withdraw from the course *after* the drop/add period (last day is Aug. 20), your resulting grade will depend on when you initiate the withdrawal:

- Prior to and including Thurs., Oct. 22, your grade will be a W, and will not affect your grade-point average.
- After Thurs., Oct. 22, your grade will be a WF, and will be calculated into your grade-point average as a 0.0 earned on three credit-hours.

*Withdrawal limit:* There is a limit of four (4) career withdrawals at UGA before all subsequent withdrawals receive an automatic grade of WF (Withdrawal Failing). All withdrawals are included in the count except: Hardship Withdrawals, Withdrawals from Audited Courses, and Military Withdrawals.

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## Getting help

I'm available during office hours or by appointment to talk about class content, concerns about your work, ideas, careers, or anything else that is on your mind. If you don't ask me, I can't help you!

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## Course schedule

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course. If necessary, the instructor will announce updates as the semester progresses.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic/Activity</i>	<i>Reading to complete prior to the session</i>
Aug. 19	YouTube and social media	
Aug. 26	YouTube and social media (continued) <u>DUE (all students)</u> : Find a popular-press article about YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, or Twitter. Highlight specific claims in a printout of it. Be sure that the original source of the article is clearly and fully identified on your printout. Write a one-page summary of the article's claims about the technology. Hand in your summary stapled to the hardcopy of the article.	
Sept. 2	Views of communication technology I	<u>Online readings</u> : McLuhan; Postman.
Sept. 9	Views of communications technology II	<u>Online reading</u> : Williams.
Sept. 16	World Wide Web <u>DUE</u> : One-page analysis of popular-press commentary (need to complete only <u>five</u> between Sept. 16–Nov. 18)	
Sept. 23	Television <u>DUE</u> : One-page analysis of popular-press commentary	
Sept. 30	Recorded music <u>DUE</u> : One-page analysis of popular-press commentary	
Oct. 7	Radio <u>DUE</u> : One-page analysis of popular-press commentary	
Oct. 14	Broadcasting <u>DUE</u> : One-page analysis of popular-press commentary	

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Oct. 21	Motion pictures <u>DUE</u> : One-page analysis of popular-press commentary
Oct. 28	Telephony <u>DUE</u> : One-page analysis of popular-press commentary
Nov. 4	Photography <u>DUE</u> : One-page analysis of popular-press commentary
Nov. 11	Telegraphy <u>DUE</u> : One-page analysis of popular-press commentary
Nov. 18	Popular books <u>DUE</u> : One-page analysis of popular-press commentary
Nov. 25	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
Dec. 2	Can communications technologies save the world? <u>DUE</u> : Four-page final essay

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## Academic honesty

This is the University of Georgia’s policy regarding academic honesty. It applies to all academic work such as exams, term papers, and projects. Every student who enrolls at the university agrees to be bound by this policy. This means that each student has a responsibility to read the policy and comply with it. It’s no defense to a charge of academic dishonesty to say “I didn’t know that was prohibited.”

Students must perform all of their academic work without plagiarizing, cheating, lying, tampering, stealing, receiving assistance from others (unless the faculty member authorizes that assistance) or using outside sources to assist in that work without giving fair, explicit attribution via footnotes, endnotes, or reference list.

Examples of academic dishonesty are copying answers from another student during an exam, giving a false excuse for failing to show up for an exam, obtaining advance exam copies by unauthorized means, or presenting others’ work as your own. Students who assist other students in academically dishonest acts are also in violation of the policy.

For more information, contact the Office of the Vice President for Instruction at 543-0690, or find information at (<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/>).

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