1.0 Course Description

The shift from industrial to information society is characterized by the integration of information and information technologies into the political process, the economy, health, and other areas. While information technologies open up possibilities for citizens to engage in public life, they also offer regulatory institutions modes of monitoring and controlling citizens. This course examines the relationship between information technologies and governance, and develops students' capacity to engage critically with competing notions of the information society. **Lab: 3 hours.**

**Prerequisites:** CMN 100 or CMN 114 or CMN 124 or CMN 200 or CMN 201 or CMN 207 or CMN 279 or CMN 300 or CMN 373 or Direct Entry

2.0 Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- To evaluate a range of perspectives and approaches to governance in the information society
- To critically assess the democratic potential and actual use of information technologies in the governance of diverse aspects of life
- To gain an appreciation of the role of tactical and alternative media practices in democratic communication

3.0 Topics Covered

3.1 Critical theories of governance
3.2 Information society
3.3 Privacy
3.4 Security
3.5 Intellectual property
3.6 Political communication
3.7 Tactical media

All topics will be covered, but not necessarily in the order listed above.
4.0 Course Management

The course consists of lectures, in-class activities and discussion, and student presentations. Students prepare at least three written assignments and one oral presentation.

5.0 Course Materials

All required readings are available online and can be accessed through the course website.

6.0 Course Policies

6.1 Students must adhere to university policies; see http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies. The most relevant policies are the following:

- Policy #46 Policy on Grading, Promotion, and Academic Standing ("GPA Policy")
- Policy #60 Academic Integrity
- Policy #61 Student Code of Non-Academic Conduct
- Policy #134 Undergraduate Academic Consideration and Appeals
- Policy #135 Examination Policy
- Policy #145 Course Management Policy
- Policy #150 Accommodation of Student Religious, Aboriginal and Spiritual Observance
- Policy #157 Establishment and Use of Ryerson Student E-Mail Accounts For Official University Communication
- Policy #159 Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

6.2 Print and Digital Copying Guidelines

Ryerson University complies with Canada’s Copyright Act which protects both creators/owners and users of copyrighted materials. Students should familiarize themselves with Ryerson’s Copyright policies and procedures, and contact the Copyright and Scholarly Engagement Librarian at copyrt@ryerson.ca for questions, concerns and clarification of the copyright rules.

6.3 Turnitin.com

By taking this course, students agree that all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site. Students who do not want their work submitted to this plagiarism detection service must, by the end of the second week of class, consult with the instructor to make alternative arrangements.
Please note the following from Policy 145 Course Management Policy:

4.3.1.2 Even when an instructor has not indicated that a plagiarism detection service will be used, or when a student has opted out of the plagiarism detection service, if an instructor has reason to suspect that an individual piece of work has been plagiarized, the instructor is permitted to submit that work in a non-identifying way to any plagiarism detection service.

6.4 Email Communication

Ryerson requires that any official or formal email communication from students be sent from their official Ryerson electronic accounts.

6.5 Video and Audio Recording

No video or audio recording is permitted in class without the express permission of the instructor.

7.0 Ryerson’s Learning Management System

Ryerson University supports Brightspace by D2L as its official Learning Management System. University Policies governing Brightspace have been documented at the Courses @ Ryerson Privacy and Security website.