

Division of Natural Science
<http://natsci.info.yorku.ca/>
Course Outline

NATS 1505M – Understanding Cyberspace
W2019
ONLINE COURSE

Course Instructor(s) and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Vera Pavri
Email: pavri@yorku.ca
Office Location: Bethune 317
Phone Office Hours: Mondays, 6:30 to 9:30pm

If you want to contact me during my phone office hours, please email me and provide me with your contact information (a cell or home phone number). I will get back to you as soon as I can. If you want me to text you prior to calling, just indicate this or any other preferences in your email (e.g. best time to call back)

In addition to phone office hours, I will hold weekly/biweekly online chats so that you can ask me questions and engage with other students in the course.

You can refer to me as Dr. or Prof. Pavri. Alternatively, you can call me by my first name (Vera). Please refrain from using terms such as “Miss” or “Mrs.” which are less appropriate in a university setting.

Email Policies and Etiquette FAQ

1. What is the procedure for sending you an email?

Please send emails to my pavri@yorku.ca account. I rarely check emails sent directly via Moodle.

Since I teach many classes, it is very important that you include the following information in the subject heading: NAME, STUDENT NUMBER, and CLASS (e.g. NATS 1505).

Any email that you send me **MUST** come from your @my.yorku.ca account as other email addresses such as hotmail, Gmail or yahoo tend to go straight to my junk mail. In addition, email addresses such as cuteasheck@hotmail.com or imahunk@gmail.com aren't professional and should not be used for classroom correspondence.

If you send me an email, I will reply to it within 24 hours. If you don't get a response, it means that I did not get your email in the first place. Generally, I would prefer that you email me for general course questions (e.g. yes/no, short responses). If you have a specific or lengthy inquiry that requires more detail, please come and speak to me before or after class or during my office hours.

2. What is an example of a professional email?

I am sure that a lot of you are new to corresponding with your professors. Here is a good example of what your email should look like:

Hi Professor Pavri

I have a question about the course. Are we required to do the readings before we come to class or after the lecture is over?

Sincerely,
Joe Crayola

In contrast, here is an example of what NOT to do:

Hey,

Do we need to read before or after the audiocasts? Get back to me ASAP!!

Joe

Expanded Course Description

This course examines the development, impact and use of current information and communications technologies (ICTs) that we use in our everyday lives. We will explore how political, economic and social institutions shape these systems, and how ICTs in turn help transform the way we communicate, work, play, think and process information. Topics that will be examined include cyber-sociability, online heuristics, media multitasking, internet use and cognitive/behavioral change, cybercrime, online privacy, cyber addiction and internet management and control.

CCE (Course Credit Exclusion): **NATS 1700**

Course Learning Outcomes

My main objective in this course is to enhance your understanding of information and communication technologies so that you become a more informed and knowledgeable citizen, better student, marketable employee and critical consumer in today's world

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- a) Describe and chart the similarities and differences between traditional computer, telecommunication and broadcast technologies versus modern day information and communication systems (ICTs)
- b) Identify, describe, analyze and critique core course theories and themes about ICTs in both historical and modern social contexts
- c) Document examples of how ICTs have shaped our modern culture (e.g. how we communicate, think, work, play, and process information) and how societal values in turn have helped shape the use, design and architecture of these systems
- d) Survey and investigate the risks and benefits and intended and unintended consequences of modern day computer/ICT use amongst individuals and society as a whole
- e) Compare and contrast various perspectives/viewpoints related to modern day computing and ICT controversies and question information, arguments, evidence and explanations about ICTs that lack diversity

- f) Adopt a multi-perspective approach (e.g. consider economic, social, cultural, religious, political, and legal factors) when attempting to understand, solve problems or make informed decisions about ICTs in our modern world
- g) Develop strategies for critically reading, synthesizing and evaluating information about computer related issues using both academic and popular media sources
- h) Interpret quantitative information (presented numerically and graphically) when studying and analyzing ICT related issues and detect appropriate scientific methods (e.g. hypothesis testing, experimentation, measurement, data management and analysis) when reading scientific and/or technical articles
- i) Examine and assess technical data to make clear and logical arguments when defending your position on a given ICT issue
- j) Respect ownership of data by correctly summarizing, paraphrasing, quoting and/or acknowledging information and appropriately cite sources relevant to research
- k) Effectively communicate an understanding about course content through a variety of written assignments including tests and tutorial assignments

Evaluation

Evaluation:

3 Take Home Tests (3x 19%= 57%)

See dates below

Final Exam (36%)

Held During Winter Exam Period

2 Tutorial Assignments (7%)

See dates and details below

A. TAKE HOME TESTS (3 x 19% = 57% TOTAL)

There are three “take-home” tests for this course. The dates for the tests can be found on your course outline and are listed below. Please plan your schedule accordingly. For each take home test, you will be given a set of questions and a period of 3 hours to submit your answers online via Moodle. All submissions must be in WORD or PDF format only. We will be using Turn It In for all test submissions to ensure that academic integrity is maintained. This means that while you can refer to your own course materials when writing your answers, you CANNOT COLLABORATE with other students as this is considered a violation of academic integrity. If your submission has a high similarity report to another student's, I will take further steps to investigate the situation. The end result may be grade of zero or course failure. Each take home test will consist of three to five written answer questions. Further information about these questions will be provided to you closer to each test date.

Each will cover a specific set of units. For example:

Test 1: 19%

Questions will be posted on Moodle on **Friday January 25 at 6pm**. The deadline for all online submissions will be **Friday January 25 at 9pm**.

This test will cover Units 1 to 3

Test 2: 19% *note this test will take place after reading week (no classes held from Feb 16-22nd)

Questions will be posted on Moodle on **Friday March 1 at 6pm**. The deadline for all online submissions will be **Friday March 1 at 9pm**.

This test will cover Units 4 to 6

Test 3: 19%

Questions will be posted on Moodle on **Friday March 29 at 6pm**. The deadline for all online submissions will be **Friday March 29 at 9pm**.

This test will cover Units 6 to 9

B. CUMULATIVE EXAM (36% TOTAL)

In addition to your three tests, there will also be a cumulative final exam which will cover ALL UNIT MATERIAL. The final exam will be held during York's spring examination period (April 5 -20 2019). Normally, the exact date for the final exam isn't provided until February or March. When you receive the date, please make the appropriate arrangements to make sure you can attend this exam. If you are out of the city, country or province, please contact the E-Services office (ESS) in LA&PS to arrange your test elsewhere. Their website is <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/eso/>

The final exam will consist entirely of multiple choice questions. Further details (e.g. the number of questions) will be provided to you as we get closer to the exam date. Sample questions will also be provided to you before the exam in addition to some tips on how to perform well on this type of test.

In a course like this, I will not be asking you to simply memorize names and dates and important events. Certain names will be important, but only if they play a role in our particular unit story. Instead, it is a good idea to see how the unit material relates back to the foundational course theories and themes. You will find this very helpful when preparing for each test. Essentially, I am testing you on your understanding of major ideas, concepts and knowledge that you have obtained from the course.

C. TUTORIAL ASSIGNMENTS (1 x 2% and 1x 5% = 7% TOTAL)

During the semester, I will be giving you two tutorial assignments to complete. There will be one tutorial assignment for units 4 to 6, and one tutorial assignment for units 6 to 9.

You will get the details for each tutorial assignment in early February and March. They will be available in the TUTORIAL ASSIGNMENTS section on Moodle. **Assignments will be due on the 28th of each month.** You will submit your work online via Turn It In for all your assignments. Further details will be provided at a later date.

PLEASE REVIEW THE COURSE POLICIES SECTION OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT LATE ASSIGNMENTS and/or MISSED EXAMS

Students with physical or learning challenges who require reasonable accommodations in teaching style or evaluation methods should discuss this with the Course Director early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made (see university policies section of this document for further information).

In order to be fair and consistent to the entire class, individual grades are not negotiable and "extra credit" assignments are not provided at any point during or after the course to improve your grade. In addition, please contact the instructor about a grade **only** if there is a clear error (calculation, clerical, academic merit, etc.) within two weeks of the grade being made available to you. Details on this procedure will be provided in class.

Required Course Materials

There is one required textbook for this course:

Guy P. Harrison, *Think Before You Like: Social Media's Effect on the Brain and the Tools You Need to Navigate Your Newsfeed*, Prometheus Publishers, 2017.

This book can be purchased at the York bookstore. Alternatively, you can also get it from any retailer that offers an e-copy.

All the other readings for this course are available on Moodle. Information about readings for a particular unit can be found alongside your audiocasts, notes and other course documents. For

example, in each unit, you will see the heading "READ." Sometimes, the reading will be from the course textbook (see above) which you have to purchase. In other cases, there may be a direct link to an online reading or a cut and paste link.

You can also refer to your unit schedule and readings document which outlines which readings are covered for each week. This document is attached to this section on Moodle. As I stated earlier, I would suggest doing the readings after getting through each unit. This is because the readings are designed to supplement, or add to, the material covered in each section. You should therefore focus your attention on the concepts, theories and ideas that are covered in the notes and audiocasts. If you require some tips on how to read scholarly articles or take point form notes, please refer to the reading and notetaking document that can be found in this Moodle section.

Laboratory/Tutorial

This course does not have a laboratory or out of class tutorial component.

Course Content and Format

This is an online course. Please refer to your 1505 COURSE OVERVIEW for detailed information about the course content and presentation of materials.

Math Content

There is a minimal amount of math done in this course. Generally, you will not need any more than a Grade 10 math level proficiency (Ontario).

Course Policies

1. Questions and Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns about the course, please contact me (the Course Director) directly. Once again, you can email me at: pavri@yorku.ca

2. Policy for Late Assignments

Please be aware that NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS will be accepted in this course other than for medical or non-medical emergencies. In these circumstances, you will be asked to provide further documentation (e.g. an Attending Physician's Statement, a letter from a funeral director or plane ticket/boarding pass). Feel free to contact the Course Director if your situation is different from the examples listed above. After examining your documentation, the Course Director will decide whether to grant or deny you an extension. Note that being sick for a few days before an assignment is due does not normally constitute a medical emergency.

3. Policy for Missed Exams

If you miss a test or exam due to medical reasons, you are required to inform the Course Director via email within 48 hours about your situation. You will then be asked to fill out York's Attending Physician's Statement and submit it before you are allowed to write your test at an alternate date and time. Depending on your situation, you may also be asked to fill out a Deferred Standing Form as well. Further information about missed exams and the required forms can be found at: <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/deferred-standing#request-deferred-standing>

If you miss an exam for a non-medical emergency, please contact your Course Director via email within 48 hours and outline your situation. If your explanation is accepted, you will be asked to provide further documentation (see policy for late assignments). After examining your documentation, the Course Director will decide whether to grant or deny you permission to write your exam.

Please note that if you miss more than one exam your request for deferred standing for the second

exam that you missed will automatically be denied and you will have to proceed straight to petitions.

4. Office of Student Community Relations (OSCR)

If you are struggling academically because of a critical incident or personal crisis and don't want to share these details with your course director, please contact York's Office of Student Community Relations for further assistance. They can provide you with the support and advice you require. Their website is: oscr.students.yorku.ca

Copyright and Intellectual Property

ALL audiocasts and lecture notes posted on Moodle are the intellectual property of the Course Director. While you can view and print these notes for your personal use, it is against the law to repost these documents on any commercial website. If we discover that you have done so, you will be asked to remove these documents immediately.

Finally, please note that it is a violation of York's academic integrity policy to buy course assignments, tests answers, essays and other materials from a commercial website. These sites (e.g. Course Hero) are monitored frequently by the department and you will be subject to academic penalty (see the academic honesty and integrity section below) if you are caught using someone else's work. Conversely, if you attempt to repost past course materials for the purposes of re-selling this work to other students, you can still be penalized under York's academic integrity guidelines even if you have already completed the course.

University Policies

Important Sessional Dates

Includes sessional start and end dates, drop deadlines, and withdrawal dates.

See the Office of the Registrar website at <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/>

The last date students can enroll in this course without the permission of the instructor is: **Jan. 16 2019**

The last date students can enroll in this course with the permission of the instructor is: **Jan. 30 2019**

The last date students can drop the course without receiving a grade is: **March 8 2019**

The course withdrawal period for NATS 1775 is: **March 9 – April 3 2019***

***During this period of time you can withdraw from the course and receive a "W" on your transcript.**

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Academic honesty requires that persons do not falsely claim credit for the ideas, writing or other intellectual property of others, either by presenting such works as their own or through impersonation. Similarly, academic honesty requires that persons do not cheat (attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation), nor attempt or actually alter, suppress, falsify or fabricate any research data or results, official academic record, application or document. Finally, academic honesty requires that persons do not aid or abet others to commit an offence of academic dishonesty, including intentional acts to disrupt academic activities.

Suspected breaches of academic honesty will be investigated and charges shall be laid if reasonable and probable grounds exist.

Academic Honesty and electronic devices during assessments (e.g. exams)

- Internet capable and personal storage devices of all kinds must be turned off, including vibrate. These and any other unauthorized material must be placed under the student's chair and should not be accessed at any point during the exam. Failure to comply with directive may be considered a break of academic honesty.

- See <http://registrar.yorku.ca/exams/tipsheet>

Please familiarize yourself with the full Senate Policy on Academic Honesty, found at <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

Also familiarize yourself with the SPARK Academic Honesty tutorial found at <https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Please familiarize yourself with the full Senate Policy on Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, found at <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>

Note: Students should submit accommodation letters from Counseling and Disability Services (CDS) to the course instructor within the first two weeks of the course or as soon as issued.

Counseling and Disability Services - <http://cds.info.yorku.ca/>

York Accessibility Hub - <http://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/>

Note: A student registered with CDS, and choosing to write with Alternate Exams, is responsible for making the appropriate writing arrangements within the timeframes outlined by Alternate Exams.

Alternate Exams - <http://altexams.students.yorku.ca/>

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents.

<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/15/wo/kmHGekTpzKLX6XYKBXYc8M/0.3.4.62.0>

Note: Students who will have an academic conflict as a result of a religious observance, at any point in the term, should make the instructor aware of such at least three weeks prior to the conflict.

For conflicts occurring during an official examination period, please complete the Examination Accommodation Form available at http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf and submit to your instructor at least three weeks prior to the final exam.

Student Conduct in Academic Situations

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures regarding disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the website of the University Secretariat (<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/>).

Division of Natural Science Resources

NATS-AID

Free peer tutoring for students enrolled in Natural Science Courses.

See <http://natsci.info.yorku.ca/nats-aid/>

M-AID in NATS (Math Aid)

Free math help for students enrolled in Natural Science Courses (TA tutors)

See <http://natsci.info.yorku.ca/m-aid-in-nats/>

Other Resources

Learning Commons

The Learning Commons brings together key supports for your learning: writing, research, learning skills and career services. <http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/>

goSAFE

GoSAFE is a complimentary service provided to the York Community. At the Keele campus, goSAFE has two routes: North Route & South Route which will safely transport community members by vehicle from one specified hub to another on campus. GoSAFE operates seven days a week, all year round, including University closures (with the exception at Glendon during the Christmas holiday closure).

Call the goSAFE office at 416-736-5454 or extension 55454 during hours of operation. Please give your name, location and destination. <http://www.yorku.ca/goSAFE/>

Mental Health and Wellness at York University

Outlines a variety of resources available to support mental health and wellness

<http://mhw.info.yorku.ca/resources/resources-at-york/students/>

Good2Talk

Post-Secondary Student 24 hour Helpline

<http://www.good2talk.ca/> 1-866-925-5454