MCM 251.600: Introduction to Social Media  
Fall 2019

Instructor Information

Professor: Bailey Thompson, Ph.D.
Email: thompsonba@sfasu.edu
Office: Boynton 201
Office Hours: T/Th: 1:00pm-3:00pm; W: 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where Do We Meet?

Class Location: Online
Class Times: Online

What Books Do We Need?

There is no required textbook for this course. You will, however, be required to read articles, website content, videos and chapters on D2L during the course of the semester.

What’s This Class About?

This course will provide an overview of social media and information networks for students. It will explain the rise of social media, impact on society and media strategies for engagement.

MCM 251 “Introduction to Social Media” (3 credits; fully online) spans 15 weeks. The course contains daily readings, two content exams, daily discussion posts, a reaction paper, and students must complete two online social media certifications. These activities average at a minimum of 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

What Are We Supposed to Learn?

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate the ability to write effectively across a variety of platforms appropriate the discipline.
2. Gather, organize and analyze discipline-appropriate research and communicate information about it.
3. Understand the role of media in society.
4. Comprehend legal and ethical principles relating to media.
5. Demonstrate the application of media technology, terminology and techniques.

Advertising/Public Relations Concentration PLOS:

1. Demonstrate the ability to construct and create social media across utilizing platforms.
2. Analyze and apply data relevant to social media.
3. Demonstrate the application of media technology and terminology to develop social media.
4. Understand effective visual language and how to apply it to build creative social media.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate strong creativity, ability and writing in creating social media. Analyze the elements that make social media unique.
2. Research social media using libraries, archives, documents, databases and electronic sources.
3. Assess social media campaign effectiveness using at least two media formats in both written and visual form.
4. Demonstrate the ability to work within professional standards and deadlines.
What are some of SFA policies?

Withdrawal Policy

The last day to drop the course without a “WP or WF” varies by semester. Please consult the SFA Academic Calendar should you anticipate needing to drop the course.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

Grade Withheld Policy (Semester Grades A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Professor’s Academic Freedom Policy

PR is often used to clean up messes. Such messes may involve sex, drugs, violence, corruption, and any number of things that we as a society frown upon. Some of the material dealt with in this class may be perceived as controversial or offensive to some students. College is all about learning new things and being exposed to different topics and viewpoints. I urge you all to both listen and speak your mind during class.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Using other’s speeches or preexisting PowerPoint presentations is considered academic dishonesty and will be treated accordingly.

Basically- don’t cheat, I’ll catch you, and then I’ll have to report you- and that’s not fun for anyone. Please do not throw away your degree by plagiarizing or cheating.
What are Bailey’s Policies?

24/7 Rule

Your grades are just your grades. Not mine. If you have questions about a grade you earned on an assignment, I urge you to contact me about it (via email) to set up an appointment to come in and talk about it. I want you to know what you did wrong, and what you did right. However, please observe the 24/7 policy- take 24 hours after receiving a grade to cool off, try to understand your mistakes, and then shoot me an email. Make a plan- don’t just come in and say “I don’t like my grade, it should be higher, change it!” Be ready to explain to me what you did, provide justification for your answer, and for why you think the grade is not reflective of what you believe it should be. You will also have 7 days after a grade is posted to contact me to discuss or dispute it. After those 7 days, all grades will stand as is.

Late Work & Late Tests

Late work will not be accepted for any reason. This policy is inflexible. One of my primary goals as a professor is preparing you to begin your careers after graduation. One way I can do this is through teaching you (or reinforcing) responsibility and accountability in a classroom setting, albeit online. At work, you cannot turn work in late and be successful, so in this class that will also be the case.

D2L

All course material will be posted on D2L. Check it, use it. In order to be successful in this course I recommend checking and participating in D2L daily.

Contacting Bailey

Please contact me via SFA email, not D2L email. My email address is thompsonba@sfasu.edu.

How Will We Be Graded?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Breakdown</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts (12)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (10 @ 3%)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper #1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper #2</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</table>

Final Grade Rounding Policy

I will round final grades with a .5 or higher. I will not raise final grades with a .4 or lower for any reason.

I will also not round “9” grades. Therefore if you make an 89 in the class, do not email me asking if I will bump it to a 90. Unless you make an 89.5 or higher, I will not round.
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Assignments

In this course there will be 4 types of assignments: Reaction papers, discussion posts, a final paper, and a final paper video presentation.

Discussion Posts

For each module (or concept) discussed, you must complete accompanying discussion posts as a way to interact not only with me, but with the rest of your class. These discussion posts will contain a mixture of prompt types ranging from content-specific to application type questions. Each post must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on the day that concept is covered in order to receive credit. You will be graded not only on simply completing a post, but on its content and on how you engage with your classmates by interacting with their posts.

Reaction Papers

During the course of the semester you must complete 2 reaction papers. These paper should be approximately 2 full double-spaced pages in length (12 pt. Times New Roman font). You may choose any topic covered in that section of the course, and discuss the readings, your reactions, and integrate current events into your reaction paper. The goal of a reaction paper is 4 fold: 1) show me you’ve read the material, 2) show me you understand the material, and 3) show me you can apply what you’re learning in class to something that is currently going on in the world in regards to social media.

Midterm

You will have one midterm during the 8th week of the course. It will cover the first 6 modules of the course. Your midterm is due Sunday, Oct. 13 @ 11:59pm. More details regarding the format of the midterm will be provided no later than a week before the exam. Makeup or extensions on the midterm will not be given for any reason. It’s your responsibility to remember to log on and take your midterm before the deadline.

Quizzes

You will have 10 quizzes throughout the course of the semester. Each quiz will assess the material for that week’s module and will be due by that Sunday @ 11:59pm. Quizzes are worth a total of 30% of your grade. Makeup or extensions on quizzes will not be given for any reason. It’s your responsibility to remember to log on and take your quiz each week before the deadline.

Final Paper

For your final paper, you will choose one topic from the course of the semester (excluding one you wrote a reaction paper on- no double dipping!) and write a research paper on that topic. You must include 5 new sources (outside the readings for class) and integrate those sources into what you have already learned about that topic. The goal is for you to become a “mini expert” in your topic area. Your paper must be 4 full pages double-spaced (12 pt. Times New Roman font). This paper should not integrate opinion or personal experience - that is what the reaction papers are for! You may not use Wikipedia as a source, and you must include a separate reference page where you provide the website for each source you discuss (both new and from class). This reference page does not count as one of your 4 pages.

Final Paper Video Presentation

Along with your final paper, you must create a 2-minute video discussing your paper. Consider it a mini lecture-series where you, as an expert, discuss your topic. Make it fun, interesting, and interactive! Creativity is encouraged! I want to see that you can verbally articulate your knowledge on the topic **in your own words!**
I reserve the right to make changes to the calendar at any time. Should I make changes, it is my responsibility as the professor to inform the students. Changes will be posted on D2L. The following calendar is an approximation of our schedule this semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Quiz Due</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug.26 - Sept.1</td>
<td>Syllabus &amp; Course Intro</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept.2 - Sept.8</td>
<td>Social Media Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sept.9 - Sept.15</td>
<td>Social Media: Good or Bad?</td>
<td>Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sept.16 - Sept.22</td>
<td>Social Media &amp; Identities</td>
<td>Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Sept.23 - Sept.29</td>
<td>Social Media, Adolescence &amp; Bullying</td>
<td>Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sept.30 - Oct.6</td>
<td>Social Media Addiction &amp; Mental Illness</td>
<td>Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct.7 - Oct.13</td>
<td>Social Media, Sex &amp; Sexuality</td>
<td>Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
<td>Reaction Paper #1 Due Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct.1 - Oct.20</td>
<td>Midterm Due by Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct.21 - Oct.27</td>
<td>Social Media &amp; Sports</td>
<td>Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct.28 - Nov.3</td>
<td>Social Media &amp; Social Issues</td>
<td>Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov.4 - Nov.10</td>
<td>Social Media, Politics &amp; Privacy</td>
<td>Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov.11 - Nov.17</td>
<td>Social Media for Business</td>
<td>Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov.18 - Nov.24</td>
<td>Social Media Influencers</td>
<td>No Quiz</td>
<td>Reaction Paper #2 Due Sun. @ 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nov.25 - Dec.1</td>
<td>No Class: Thanksgiving Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dec.2 - Dec.8</td>
<td>Final Paper &amp; Video Presentation Due</td>
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