

## COM546 – Spring 2011

Tuesday, 6-10 pm, CMU 302

<http://com546.wordpress.com>

Full syllabus: <http://com546.wordpress.com/syllabus>

Kathy E. Gill, [kegill@uw.edu](mailto:kegill@uw.edu), [kegill@gmail.com](mailto:kegill@gmail.com)

Twitter @kegill or @kegill\_uw

Cell : 425.351.0005

**Readings:** Research shows that writing a reflection helps cement learning/understanding of material. Therefore, students will prepare a written reading reflection *at least* three times during the quarter. These mini-essays (approximately 500-600 words) should be posted to the student blog before 9 am the day of class. They should be substantive, be spell-checked, and integrate readings with real life experience/observation. They are distributed throughout the quarter (to help you manage your time). These posts are due by 9 am the day of class.

- There should be at least one reflection post during weeks 2-3
- There should be at least one reflection post during weeks 4-6
- There should be at least one reflection post during weeks 7-8

**Discussion:** We learn when we have to teach. Therefore, each student will lead discussion *one class session* during the quarter. Discussion leaders should choose an article from the assigned reading list (or petition for a different one). The first evening, there is an electronic signup.

**Book Review:** Complete a critical review of a book of your choice (from the list). These books are selected to provide students with a *historical* perspective of a social aspect of communication technology. The goal/hope is that your book provides you with a foundation for your course project.

**Term Project:** Your work in this course will be evaluated primarily on the basis of a term project that includes a proposal, a preliminary paper, a final paper, an annotated bibliography and an end-of-quarter presentation. For this research, each student will choose an industry, issue, or technology related to digital communication. These are very broad topics; it will be up to each student (with help from the instructor and peers) to develop a specific, appropriate, and innovative focus to the term project. *Those students interested in reading one of the two science fiction books on the optional reading list may approach the term topic by deconstructing communication technologies presented in those future worlds, linking them to current and predecessor technologies.*

The final project will be published as a standalone website using WordPress as a content management system. The final presentation will be published on Slideshare.net. Schedule: <http://com546.wordpress.com/syllabus/term-project/>