

**T427: INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
(Intensive Writing)
Class # 25516, Spring 2006**

Instructor: Harmeet Sawhney
Office: Radio & TV Center, Rm. # 325
Phone: 855-0954

Office Hours: Wed 9:00-10:00
and by appointment
E-Mail: HSAWHNEY

Course Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., TV 226

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this seminar we will explore how international telecommunications networks have helped tie once relatively isolated countries into an integrated world system and examine the role of telecommunications in its operation. We will then discuss how different countries have positioned themselves within this world system. The discussions will cover questions such as: Why do countries feel compelled to invest in their telecommunications infrastructure? How do they go about creating this infrastructure? What are the implications of the current technological trends? After gaining an understanding of the basic dynamics of international telecommunications, we will explore the implications of these long-term trends for First, Second, and Third World countries. We will end our deliberations by making projections about the future of our increasingly interdependent world.

READINGS

Available via Electronic Reserve. Search under Instructor "Sawhney, Harmeet" at <http://129.79.5.174/courseindex.asp>.

COURSE GRADE

You will receive two grades for this course: one for your mastery of the course, and another (S/F) for the quality of your writing.

The relative weights of the different components of the final grade for the mastery of the course will be as follows:

Mid Term Exam	12.5%
Final Exam	15%
Synthesis Paper 1	7.5%
Synthesis Paper 2	7.5%
Paper 1	15%
Revised Paper 1	10%
Paper 2	12.5%
In-class Exercises	15%
Class Participation	5%

Exams: The in-class exams will consist of objective type and short answer questions.

Synthesis Papers: You will be asked to write short papers (3-4 double-spaced pages) synthesizing themes running through the readings and the class discussions.

Papers: You will be asked to write two papers (6-7 double-spaced pages) based on library research. Paper 1 will have to be revised as per the comments provided by the instructor. Detailed instructions for each paper will be provided as separate handouts.

In-class Exercises: There will be a number of in-class exercises which will carry points.

Class Participation: You are expected to come well prepared and ready to participate. Your participation grade will reflect your contributions to the class discussions.

Final grades will be calculated on a straight percentage scale as follows:

A+	97-100%	C+	77-79%
A	93-96%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%

Here are a few important points you should keep in mind as you work through the course requirements:

1. No make-up exams will be given except under dire circumstances which are substantiated with written documentation. Any make-up exam, if administered, will consist almost entirely of essay type questions.
2. Incomplete course grades will be given only for end-of-semester illness or accident; they will not be given for poor grades or lack of attendance.
3. Late submissions will carry a stiff penalty.
4. Instances of academic dishonesty will be dealt with as per university rules and regulations.
5. Every effort will be made not to deviate too much from this course syllabus. However, both the calendar and course requirements are subject to change. Each class moves at its own pace and therefore there is a need for a certain amount of flexibility within the course design.

CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic & Readings</u>
Mon / Jan 9	Introduction to the course
	<i>The World as a System</i>
Wed / Jan 11	in-class exercise
Mon / Jan 16	MLK Day (no class)
Wed / Jan 18	Sawhney—"Global Economy and International Telecommunications Networks"
Mon / Jan 23	Global Economy and Decontextualization (no reading)
	<i>Legacy of the Past</i>
Wed / Jan 25	Moon—"Two Changes of Mind" Moon—"Why Europe Shouldered the White Man's Burden"
Mon / Jan 30	Schiller—"Freedom from 'Free Flow'" Masmoudi—"The New World Information Order"
	<i>World System and Trade in Services</i>
Wed / Feb 1	Trade in Services (no reading)
	<i>Importance of Telecommunications Infrastructure</i>
	Reed—"Letters on the Subject of a Line of Rail-Roads, from Boston to the Mississippi" (separate handout)
	<i>National Styles of Infrastructure Development</i>
	<i>Evolution of Telecom Networks in the United States:</i>
Mon / Feb 6	Sawhney—"The Public Telephone Network: Stages in Infrastructure Development"

Evolution of Telecom Networks in the United Kingdom:

- Wed / Feb 8 Perry—"The British Experience 1876-1912: The Impact of the Telephone During Years of Delay"
Noam—"The Establishment of the PT&T System"

Evolution of Telecom Networks in France:

- Mon / Feb 13 Attali and Stourdze—"The Birth of the Telephone and Economic Crisis: The Slow Death of Monologue in French Society"
Wed / Feb 15 de Gournay—"Telephone Networks in France and Great Britain"
Jun—"France: Top-Down Decentralization"

PAPER 1 DUE

Emerging Network Structures

- Mon / Feb 20 Gilder—"IBM-TV?"
Wed / Feb 22 Johnstone—"Wiring Japan"

SYNTHESIS PAPER 1 DUE

- Mon / Feb 27 no readings

- Wed / Mar 1 MID TERM EXAMINATION

World System as a Juggernaut

- Mon / Mar 6 Stephenson—"No One is Here' Telecommunications in the Soviet Union"
Intermedia—"China: Technology can set you free?"
Kertz and Oettinger—"With AT&T in Iran"

Backwaters of the World System

- Wed / Mar 8 Samarajiva and Shields—"Value Issues in Telecommunications Resource Allocation in the Third World"

SPRING BREAK

Global Consequences of a Global Economy

Mon / Mar 20 Reich—"The Origins of Economic Nationalism"
PAPER 1 RETURNED WITH COMMENTS

Wed / Mar 22 Reich—"From High Volume to High Value"

Mon / Mar 27 Reich—"The New Web of Enterprise"

Wed / Mar 29 Reich—"The Three Jobs of the Future"

Towards a new world system?

Mon / Apr 3 Abler—"Effects of Space-Adjusting Technologies on the Human Geography of the Future"

Wed / Apr 5 Petrazzini and Kibati—"The Internet in Developing Countries"
REVISED PAPER 1 DUE

Mon / Apr 10 Sung—"The Replanning of Broadcasting-Satellite Service: Equitable Access to Space Revisited"

Wed / Apr 12 Akutsu—"The Japanese Path Toward An Information Society"

Global Economy?

Mon / Apr 17 Mander—"The Dark Side of Globalization"

Wed / Apr 19 Norberg-Hodge—"Break Up The Monoculture"
SYNTHESIS PAPER 1 DUE

Mon / Mar 24 no reading

Wed / Mar 26 no reading

PAPER 2 DUE

FINAL EXAMINATION: May 3, Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., TV 226