








Communication Studies (CMNS) 321

Computing in Everyday Life (Revision 6)

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode: [Individualized study online](#)  or [Grouped study](#)  with [Video component](#)  (Overseas students, please contact the University Library before registering in a course that has an audio/visual component)

Credits: 3

Areas of study: Arts or Social Science

Prerequisites: None

Precluded: CMNS 321 cannot be taken for credit if credit has already been obtained for HSRV 321

Challenge: CMNS 321 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty: [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview

Computing in Everyday Life surveys the psychological and sociological impact of computers on the people who use them. The course situates the computer in the history of mediated communication by examining such key factors in computer-mediated communication as artificial intelligence, robotics, virtual reality, and the Internet. Implications of these factors for the nature of human experience with computers are then explored in selected applied units on the cellphone, augmented reality, video games, and health information. Students have ample opportunity to connect theory and actual experience through online research and discussion.

Outline

Core Units

- Unit 1: Overview
- Unit 2: Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Unit 3: Virtual Reality (VR) and Robotics
- Unit 4: The Internet

Application Units

- Unit 5: Cell Phones
- Unit 6: Augmented Reality: Portability, Accessibility, and Wearability
- Unit 7: Video Games
- Unit 8: Health Information and Disabilities: Computer Applications

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for CMNS 321, you must complete all assignments, achieve at least 50% on the final exam, and obtain a minimum composite course grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [↗](#). The chart below summarizes the course activities and the credit weight associated with each.

Activity	Weight
Assignment #1: Online discussion (5 posts at 2% each)	10%
Assignment #2: Experiential/Academic Reports (5 reports at 12% each)	60%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#).

Note: Weighting in grouped-study offerings may be altered to accommodate a classwork component.

Materials

This course either does not have a course package or the textbooks are open-source material and available to students at no cost. This course has a [Course Administration and Technology Fee](#), but students are not charged the Course Materials Fee.

All course materials for CMNS 321 are available online.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the CMNS 321 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [↗](#) on the examination.

Activity	Weight
Take home exam	50%
Exam	50%
Total	100%

 [Challenge for credit course registration form](#)

Grouped study

Note: All courses are subject to approval and availability.

 Sorry "cmns321" is not offered by Grouped Study at present.

NOTE: Students registering in grouped study mode are advised that there may be some differences in the evaluation and course materials information indicated above.

Important links

- > [Academic advising](#) [↗](#)
- > [Program planning](#) [↗](#)

> [Request assistance](#) 

> [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 6, October 8, 2015

Updated April 23, 2024

View [previous revision](#) 
