

UMBC UGC Instructions for New Course Request Form (revised 4/2016)

Course number & title: Enter the number and title of the course at the top of the page. Contact the Registrar's Office to confirm that the desired course number is available.

Date submitted: The date that the form will be submitted to the UGC.

Effective date: The semester the new course is in effect, if approved.

Contact information: Provide the contact information of the Chair or UPD of the department or program housing the course. If the course is not housed in a department or program, then provide the same information for the head of the appropriate academic unit. (See UGC Procedures) If another faculty member should also be contacted for questions about the request and be notified about UGC actions on the request, include that person's contact information on the second line.

Course number: For cross-listed courses, provide all the numbers for the new course.

Transcript title: Limited to 30 characters, including spaces.

Recommended Course Preparation: *Please note that all 300 and 400 level courses should have either recommended course preparation(s) or prerequisite(s) and that 100 or 200 level courses may have them.*

Here fill in what previous course(s) a student should have taken to succeed in the course. These recommendations will NOT be enforced by the registration system. Please explain your choices in the "rationale" (discussed below).

Prerequisite: *Please note that all 300 and 400 level courses should have either recommended course preparation(s) or prerequisite(s)* Here fill in course(s) students need to have taken before they enroll in this course. These prerequisites will be enforced through the registration system. Please explain your choices in the "rationale" (discussed below).

NOTE: Please use the words "AND" and "OR", along with parentheses as appropriate, in the lists of prerequisites and recommended preparation so that the requirements specified will be interpreted unambiguously.

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a "D" or better.

of credits: To determine the appropriate number of credits to assign to a course please refer to the [UMBC Credit Hour Policy](#) which articulates the standards for assignment and application of credit hours to all courses and programs of study at UMBC regardless of degree level, teaching and learning formats, and mode of instruction.

Maximum total credits: This should be equal to the number of credits for courses that cannot be repeated for credit. For courses that may be repeated for credit, enter the maximum total number of credits a student can receive from this course. E.g., enter 6 credits for a 3 credit course that may be taken a second time for credit, but not for a third time. Please note that this does NOT refer to how many times a class may be retaken for a higher grade.

Grading method(s): Please review the [grading methods document](#) (this link can be found on the UGC forms page) before selecting a grading option. Please do not select all three grading options by default.

Proposed catalog description: Provide the exact wording of the course description as it will appear in the next undergraduate catalog. Course proposals should be a) no longer than 75 words, b) stated in declarative sentences in language accessible to students, and c) avoid reference to specific details that may not always pertain (e.g., dates, events, etc.). Course descriptions should not repeat information about prerequisites (which are always listed alongside the course description)."

Rationale: Please explain the following:

- a) Why is there a need for this course at this time?
- b) How often is the course likely to be taught?
- c) How does this course fit into your department's curriculum?
- d) What primary student population will the course serve?
- e) Why is the course offered at the level (ie. 100, 200, 300, or 400 level) chosen?
- f) Explain the appropriateness of the recommended course preparation(s) and prerequisite(s).
- g) Explain the reasoning behind the P/F or regular grading method.
- h) Provide a justification for the repeatability of the course.

Cross-listed courses: Requests to create cross-listed courses must be accompanied by letters of support via email from all involved department chairs. Proposals for new courses or the addition of a cross-listing to an existing course must include as a part of the rationale the specific reason why cross-listing is appropriate. Email from all involved department chairs is also required when cross-listing is removed and when a cross-listed course is discontinued. Please note that Special Topics courses cannot be cross-listed.

Course Outline: Provide a syllabus with main topics and a weekly assignment schedule which includes complete citations for readings with page numbers as appropriate. Explain how students' knowledge and skills will be assessed.

Note: the UGC form is a Microsoft Word form. You should be able to enter most of the information by tabbing through the fields. The document is protected. In the rare case that you need to unprotect the document, use the password 'ugcform'. Beware that you will lose all the data entered in the form's fields if you unlock and lock the document.

UMBC UGC New Course Request: Media and Communication Studies 322: Cultures of Surveillance

Date Submitted: April 10, 2020

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2020

	Name	Email	Phone	Dept
Dept Chair or UPD	Jason Loviglio (Chair)	loviglio@umbc.edu	(410)455-2041	MCS
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COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Number(s)	MCS 322
Formal Title	Cultures of Surveillance
Transcript Title (≤30c)	Cultures of Surveillance
Recommended Course Preparation	MCS 222, MCS 333
Prerequisite NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a "D" or better.	None
# of Credits Must adhere to the UMBC Credit Hour Policy	3
Repeatable for additional credit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Max. Total Credits	3 This should be equal to the number of credits for courses that cannot be repeated for credit. For courses that may be repeated for credit, enter the maximum total number of credits a student can receive from this course. E.g., enter 6 credits for a 3 credit course that may be taken a second time for credit, but not for a third time. Please note that this does NOT refer to how many times a class may be retaken for a higher grade.
Grading Method(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION (Approximately 75 words in length. Please use full sentences.):

"Cultures of Surveillance" focuses on critical analyses of surveillance: how it functions, what we expect it will do, and whether escaping it is desirable or even possible. Because surveillance affects almost everyone—albeit in very different ways—the course will emphasize the application of key theories and concepts to real-world problems, phenomena, and experiences. We will do this work through discussion, writing, reflection, and critical engagement with media.

RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE:

- a) Surveillance is increasingly normalized and ubiquitous. But paradoxically, this ubiquity may make it easier to overlook, justify, or take for granted. For example, the population of the United States is roughly 331,000,000 people, and there are somewhere between 30,000,000 and 60,000,000 (or more) surveillance cameras recording them every day. Baltimore city alone maintains a network of more than 700 closed-circuit television systems on city streets. Schools hire police to monitor students, employers install keystroke logging software to monitor employees, parents use security systems to monitor babysitters and children, while we are all encouraged to monitor public spaces and "say something" if we happen to "see something" that looks out of place. At the same time, we voluntarily, habitually, and eagerly share information about our locations, bodies, relationships, behaviors, beliefs, and purchases on social media. We rely on phones, smart watches, and activity trackers to record our pulses, how we sleep, how many steps

we take, and what we've eaten. And we frequently turn to surveillance as a solution in times of crisis like terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and pandemics. "Cultures of Surveillance" is an effort to make sense of all of this by thinking critically about how surveillance functions, what we expect or hope it will do, and whether escaping it is desirable or even possible.

b) We anticipate offering one section of the course every couple of years.

c) All MCS majors are required to take at least two MCS electives to complete their degrees. MCS 322 will count as an approved MCS elective. It also complements our department's emphasis on teaching students to think critically about the affordances, limitations, uses, and consequences of technology, always with an eye toward preparing them for active and engaged citizenship.

d) We anticipate that most students in this class will be MCS majors; as it is an upper-level course, we expect that most students will be at least in their sophomore years when enrolling. The course will also be open to non-majors.

e) 370 is the standard number for MCS special topics courses. However, because the course will build on concepts and approaches elaborated in lower-level MCS courses, the upper-level designation should communicate to students that it is most suitable for those with some background in the field. Readings are chosen and assessments are constructed with the advanced undergraduate student in mind.

f) Although 370 is a stand-alone course, the curriculum assumes some fluency in key terms, concepts, theories, and methodologies of MCS, content that students typically garner from 222 and 333.

g) Like most courses at UMBC, MCS courses follow the regular letter grading method. Relative to the pass/fail system, this allows students' grades to more precisely reflect their work in, and contributions to, the course.

h) As the course will likely not change significantly from semester to semester, students should not be able to repeat it.

ATTACH COURSE SYLLABUS (mandatory): I've attached the syllabus from a pilot version of the course that I taught as a special topics (MCS 370) course in the spring of 2019.