

Media outlaws

Special topics in communication theory
Tu Th 12:45-2:00p / B10 Ford

Comm 5110-002
Spring 2006

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Course description and objectives

This is a course about media subversives: people working outside of mainstream media institutions who nonetheless find creative and provocative ways to use the media as a space for cultural, political, and/or economic critique and resistance. Over the course of the semester, we will examine a range of “alternative” media phenomena, including:

- computer hackers
- open source software
- digital sampling
- digital filesharing
- media pranksters
- copyright pirates
- punk rockers
- “slash” fan-fiction
- pornography

Our goal will not be to simply romanticize these “outlaws” as latter day Robin Hoods, nor will we simply condemn them as criminals or troublemakers. Instead, we will study how and why such figures struggle against the global “media monopoly” in order to come to a richer understanding of (a) the precise nature of the media’s considerable political and cultural power, and (b) the ways that ordinary people can engage with powerful cultural institutions, not as passive consumers, but as active participants and creators.

Few (if any) of the questions we’ll address this semester have easy or predictable answers. How well you do in this class will depend on (1) your ability to think *critically* about issues of media, culture, politics, and resistance and (2) your ability to *argue* your position(s) on those issues persuasively, rather than your ability to memorize and repeat the “right” answers.

Permanent course rules

1-001. Applicability of rules. At any given time during the semester, all students must abide by all course rules in the specific form in which they are then in effect. All rules listed in the original syllabus are in effect when the semester begins and remain in effect until and unless they are officially changed.

1-002. Rule types. There are three types of course rules:

(a) Permanent course rules. These rules cannot be changed, amended, or repealed under any circumstances short of an emergency (and then only by the professor). They are numbered with a “1-” prefix.

(b) Major course rules. These rules require at least a supermajority vote (i.e., greater than 66.66%) to be created, changed, amended, or repealed. They are numbered with a “2-” prefix.

(c) Minor course rules. These rules require at least a majority vote (i.e., greater than 50%) to be created, changed, amended, or repealed. They are numbered with a “3-” prefix.

1-003. Hierarchy of rules. In the event of conflicts between two or more rules, precedent is given to the rule at the highest level of the hierarchy (i.e., major rules take precedent over minor rules, and permanent rules take precedent over both major and minor rules). If conflicting rules are in the same level of the hierarchy, the rule with the lowest number takes precedent (e.g., a rule numbered #3-152 would take precedence over a rule numbered #3-155).

1-004. Professor. The professor (Gil Rodman) is the final arbiter and enforcer of all course rules, and the only person authorized to determine and/or assign final course grades. He is also authorized to determine and/or assign grades for both attendance/participation and individual assignments (or portions thereof).

1-005. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs). The GTAs (Thomas Johnson, Emanuelle Wessels) are authorized to determine and/or assign grades for individual assignments (or portions thereof), as delegated to do so by the professor. GTAs are not authorized to determine and/or assign grades for graduate students.

1-006. Students. For purposes of the course rules, there are two different categories of students:

(a) Graduate students. This category includes all enrolled students formally designated by the University as graduate students and any other student who, by mutual agreement with the professor, intends to fulfill the graduate level requirements for this course.

(b) Undergraduate students. This category includes all students formally recognized by the professor as grade-earning participants in the course who do not fit the description of “graduate students” given above.

1-007. Eligible voters. All students have the right to propose new rules, to propose changes to existing rules, and to vote on official ballots. Proposals and/or ballots that only apply to one category of students (see #1-006 above) can only be proposed and/or voted upon by students who belong to the affected category (e.g., graduate students cannot change rules that only apply to undergraduates, and vice versa).

1-008. One student/one vote. In all voting situations, each student has exactly one vote. In the event that a ballot ends in a tie vote, the GTAs will be empowered to cast the deciding vote. Should a ballot remain tied after the GTAs have attempted to resolve the deadlock, the professor is empowered to cast the deciding vote. Otherwise, both the professor and the GTAs are non-voting participants in the ballot process.

1-009. Quorum. Any ballot that fails to achieve a quorum of at least 50% of all eligible voters will be null and void, regardless of the final outcome of the vote.

1-010. Passed ballot grade points. When a ballot passes, the student who officially proposed that ballot will have one (1) point added to their final course grade.

1-011. Timekeeping. For purposes of all course rules, a “course week” begins at 12:45:00 pm CT every Tuesday and lasts until 12:44:59 pm CT on the following Tuesday.

1-012. Grade queries/disputes. Questions about specific assignment grades should be directed to the assignment’s original grader. In the event of a dispute over a GTA-assigned grade, the student in question must make every reasonable effort to resolve that dispute with the relevant GTA before asking the professor to consider the matter. In the event that the professor agrees to intervene in a dispute over a grade assigned by a GTA, he will re-grade the assignment in question himself, with the resulting grade -- which may be higher than, the same as, or lower than the original grade -- becoming the official grade of record for the assignment. GTAs are not empowered to change grades assigned either by each other or by the professor.

1-013. Higher law. No course rules can be created, changed, or amended in such a way as to violate (a) federal, state, or local laws; (b) Communication Studies departmental policies; and/or (c) official UMN rules and regulations.

Major course rules

2-001. Books. The following required books are available at the University Bookstore in Coffman Union:

- Ben H. Bagdikian, *The New Media Monopoly*
- Stephen Duncombe (ed.), *The Cultural Resistance Reader*
- Dick Hebdige, *Subculture*
- Laura Kipnis, *Bound and Gagged*
- Lawrence Lessig, *Free Culture*
- Kembrew McLeod, *Freedom of Expression*
- Negativland, *Fair Use*
- Constance Penley, *NASA/TREK*
- Eric S. Raymond, *The Cathedral and the Bazaar* [revised edition]
- The Yes Men, *The Yes Men*

Please note that earlier editions exist for both the Bagdikian and the Raymond books. Students who opt to acquire their books from alternate sources should make sure that they acquire the editions listed above.

Students who choose the major research project option (see #2-010 below) are strongly encouraged to use the following recommended book (which is also available at the University Bookstore in Coffman Union) as a helpful guide for how to conceive, plan, research, and write their final papers:

- Wayne C. Booth *et al.*, *The Craft of Research* [second edition]

2-002. Course listserv. All students on the official course roster as of 16 Jan have been subscribed to the course listserv, “media-outlaws,” using their listed UMN addresses. Any student who would prefer to access the listserv using some other e-mail account is welcome to do so, but s/he must change his/her own subscription settings, and s/he must use an address that the professor can accurately and reliably associate with the student in question. Students can join the listserv and/or change their subscription settings by using the list’s web interface: <http://www.comm.umn.edu/mailman/listinfo/media-outlaws>

To post to the list, send a regular e-mail message to: media-outlaws@comm.umn.edu

The principal uses for the listserv will be for:

- graded online discussions of assigned readings and other issues related to the theme of the course,
- occasional “virtual lectures” designed to stimulate (additional) online discussion,
- proposing and discussing all changes to the official course rules, and
- course-related business announcements.

2-003. Yoga mat. All students are required to purchase a molded rubber yoga mat (in UMN maroon and/or gold only; minimum length of 120 inches) that they will bring to every class meeting from 31 Jan until the end of the semester. Students who come to class without their yoga mats will have their attendance/participation grade for that meeting docked by 10%.

2-004. Graduate students. All of the original course rules apply to graduate students except as follows:

- There will be a seminar meeting every 3-4 weeks (places, dates, and times to be determined) for the discussion of additional graduate-level readings (also to be determined). Graduate students are required to do these extra readings and to attend and participate in these extra sessions.
- Graduate students are required to fulfill the “major research project” assignment. The resulting paper must be (a) *6250-7500* words long and (b) suitable for submission to a scholarly conference and/or journal. Graduate students are expected to submit a proposed paper topic by 31 Jan and a final version of their paper by 9 May, but they are not required to submit “verification pages” or to meet any of the other intermediate paper deadlines/requirements.
- Graduate students are required to do all the assigned readings, but are not required to complete the “reading journal” assignment.

Final course grades for graduate students will be calculated using the following schedule:

Attendance/participation	20%
Major research project	80%

2-005. Grading schedule: undergraduate students. Final course grades for undergraduates will be calculated using the following schedule:

Attendance/participation	20%
Reading journal (10 entries @ 2% each)	20%
Major research project <u>OR</u> Position papers (4 @ 15% each)	60%

Final grade point totals will translate to letter grades as follows:

A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D+	67-69	F	0-59
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D	63-66	N	0-59
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	S	70-100	D-	60-62	I	n/a

- “S/N” grades will only be given to students who have registered for the course on an S/N basis.
- “I” grades will only be given under extraordinary circumstances (i.e., major life emergencies).

2-006. Attendance/participation. Attendance will be taken at the start of every class period, and all unexcused absences, late arrivals, and/or early departures will result in grade penalties. In general, the only absences that will count as “excused” are those resulting from:

- major life emergencies (with suitable documentation (hospital receipts, funeral notices, etc.)) or
- major religious holidays (with detailed written notice presented at least a week in advance).

Class meetings will be structured around discussions rather than lectures. While the professor will make a concerted effort to insure that as many students as possible get to contribute to our in-class discussions, our numbers this semester are too large to guarantee that everyone will be able to earn the maximum possible participation grade solely through in-class discussions. With this in mind, all students should plan on contributing to our online discussions on a regular basis. Ideally, each student should aim to:

- attend all required class meetings (this includes arriving on time and staying until the end),
- make at least one significant contribution to our in-class discussions every time we meet, and
- contribute roughly 300 words of productive commentary to our online discussions every week.

Students who meet all these goals will receive an attendance/participation grade of A. Students who fall short in one of these areas can make up for it with extra work in one of the others . . . but bear in mind that:

- In-class presence matters. Students who miss a class should contribute more extensively to our online discussions for the remainder of that course week.
- Consistent effort counts. All other things being equal, 100 listserv-words/week for 15 weeks is worth more than 1500 listserv-words in one massive post.
- Quality counts. A brilliant and insightful 100-word listserv post will typically be worth more than a mediocre 300-word post.
- “Fluff” doesn’t count. The professor reserves the right to penalize students who make repeated efforts to boost their participation score with off-topic comments and/or “padded” listserv posts.

2-007. Valentine’s Day. On 14 Feb, any student who wears any publicly visible clothing to class that bears any trace of any color other than red shall have their attendance/participation grade for that course week reduced by 25%.

2-008. Written assignments -- general rules.

(a) Where/how to submit assignments. Unless specifically noted otherwise in the rules below and/or on official assignment handouts, all written work must be submitted in both printed and digital versions, and the text of each version must be identical.

- Printed versions should be double-spaced and stapled (do not use plastic covers/binders).
- Digital versions should be e-mailed to gbrodman@mindspring.com as file attachments.
- Acceptable digital formats are WordPerfect, OpenOffice, Word, RTF, PDF, HTML, and plaintext.
- Neither the professor nor the GTAs will print out hard copies from digital submissions, and so students will not receive written feedback unless they submit both versions.
- Students submitting printed versions of assignments outside of the normal class period should either hand such work directly to the professor or place it in his campus mailbox in 250 Ford. Do not submit assignments to GTA mailboxes or under office doors.

(b) Deadlines. All due dates are “in class” due dates, which means that at least one -- and preferably both -- versions of any assignment must be submitted by 12:45 pm on the relevant due date. For students who only submit one of the two required versions on time, there is a “grace period” for the second version until 3:30 pm on the due date. Late penalties will apply to all assignments where (a) neither printed or digital versions have been submitted by 12:45 pm or (b) only one version has been submitted by 3:30 pm. Late penalties will be assessed in direct proportion to the lateness of the assignment in question. The minimum penalty in all such cases will be one full letter grade deducted from that assignment’s grade.

(c) Grammar/spelling/etc. Grades for written assignments will be based primarily on content (rather than form): e.g., insightful, smartly argued essays that contain a few spelling errors will almost always receive higher grades than grammatically flawless papers that have weak arguments. Nonetheless, grammar, spelling, and style still matter to the effective presentation of a strong argument, and assignments suffering from significant “form” problems will be penalized accordingly.

(d) Accepted languages. All written assignments completed after 31 Jan must be submitted in one (or more) of the following languages:

Bottle-nosed Dolphin	Klingon	Navajo
Esperanto	Mandarin Chinese	Proto-Indo-European
Flemish	Mayan	Wolof

Written work submitted in any other languages -- including English -- will be penalized a full letter grade.

2-009. Reading journal. All undergraduate students must write and submit a minimum of ten (10) short (~250 word) journal entries, each of which will consist of a thoughtful response to a different one of our assigned readings. Each journal entry is due by 12:45 pm on the class date for which the reading in question is assigned. Further details about this assignment are available on a separate handout. That handout constitutes a legally binding extension of this course rule.

2-010. Position papers. Over the course of the semester, the professor will post specific prompts for each of five (5) different position paper assignments. Undergraduate students choosing to complete position papers are required to write and submit essays of 1000+ words each in response to at least four (4) of these prompts. Due dates are listed below (see #2-017). Further details about this assignment are available on a separate handout. That handout constitutes a legally binding extension of this course rule.

2-011. Major research project. This assignment will result in a 4000+ word argumentative research paper on a topic appropriate to the course’s central theme. Final papers are due by 12:45 pm on 9 May. There are several mandatory intermediate deadlines designed to help undergraduate students complete their projects in a timely and satisfactory fashion.

This assignment is designed so that it can be used to satisfy the Senior Paper requirement for Communication Studies majors. Students intending to use this project for this purpose must:

- inform the professor in writing of their intent to do so by 26 Jan,
- register for Comm 3995 by 27 Jan (see Tim Behme in 278 Ford for “magic numbers”), and
- earn a grade of B- or better on their completed project.

Further details about this assignment are available on a separate handout. That handout constitutes a legally binding extension of this course rule.

2-012. Super Bowl counter-ad assignment. In recognition of the extensive media hype surrounding the Super Bowl every year, all students will write and produce a broadcast-quality 30-second television advertisement that deliberately critiques and subverts the glorification of consumerism and militaristic nationalism that pervades the Super Bowl broadcast. Finished ads are due on 2 Feb and must be submitted in DVD format. These ads will not be graded, but any student who fails to complete this assignment will have ten (10) points deducted from her/his final course grade.

2-013. Academic integrity. To help avoid potentially disastrous misunderstandings, the following is a partial list of major examples of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism in any of its forms,
- copying assignments (in whole or in part) produced by other students,
- having someone else research and/or write substantial portions of any graded assignment, and
- knowingly assisting someone else in their efforts to engage in any of the above practices.

The minimum penalty for academic dishonesty is a zero for the assignment in question -- and, in cases involving the major research project, such a penalty will result in a final course grade of F.

Further information about the University's official policies with respect to academic dishonesty -- including more detailed explanations of what constitutes "plagiarism" and "cheating" -- can be found online at <http://writing.umn.edu/tww/plagiarism/>

2-014. Recordings and notes. Students are allowed to make audio recordings of our class meetings for their personal use, provided they can do so without disrupting the ordinary flow of the class. The purchase and/or sale of either written notes or audio recordings of our class meetings is strictly prohibited.

2-015. Etiquette. Significant disruptions of the normal flow of course-related business -- e.g., using cell phones in class, excessive side chatter, engaging in premature leave-taking behavior -- will result in penalties to the attendance/participation grades for the student(s) involved.

2-016. Favre Loyalty Oath. From 31 Jan onward, all of our class meetings will begin with a mandatory group recitation of "The Oath of Eternal Loyalty to Brett Favre." The full text of this oath (which all students must commit to memory) is as follows:

I swear by all that is holy and true in the cosmos
That I shall be forever faithful to Brett Favre,
Who shines forth like Packer gold on a cloudy day,
And is the greatest quarterback ever to trod upon the frozen tundra.
I shall honor Brett faithfully and fully,
Forswearing all other football allegiances,
And defend his name and legend, if need be, with my very life.

Students who fail to memorize the Oath completely and accurately, to participate in our in-class recitations of the Oath, and/or to abide by the noble ideals expressed in the Oath will have their final course grade penalized one (1) point for each infraction.

2-017. Reading/assignment schedule. The schedule below lists our scheduled class meetings, reading assignments, and due dates for all written work except the reading journal. All students should complete all readings in advance of the dates listed.

date	required readings	assignment deadlines recommended readings
17 Jan	no readings	
19 Jan	Duncombe, pp. 1-15 (Duncombe) Bagdikian, pp. ix-54	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 1]
24 Jan	Duncombe, pp. 67-81 (Benjamin) Bagdikian, pp. 55-130	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 2]
26 Jan	Duncombe, pp. 185-192 (Hall) Bagdikian, pp. 131-176	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 3]
31 Jan	Bagdikian, pp. 177-265	topic due yoga mat requirement begins
2 Feb	Duncombe, pp. 135-149 (Hobsbawm) Lessig, pp. xiii-79	Super Bowl counter-ad due [recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 4]
7 Feb	Duncombe, pp. 347-357 (Jordan) Lessig, pp. 80-173	position paper #1 due [recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 5]
9 Feb	Lessig, pp. 174-212	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 6]
14 Feb	Lessig, pp. 213-306	5-item bibliography due
16 Feb	Duncombe, pp. 89-96 (Scott) McLeod, pp. 1-61	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 7]
21 Feb	Duncombe, pp. 369-378 (Boyd) McLeod, pp. 62-170	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 8]
23 Feb	McLeod, pp. 171-225	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 9]
28 Feb	McLeod, pp. 226-334	thesis paragraph due position paper #2 due
2 Mar	Duncombe, pp. 113-118 (Bey) Raymond, pp. ix-64	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 10]
7 Mar	Duncombe, pp. 333-346 (Epstein) Raymond, pp. 65-166	annotated 10-item bibliography due [recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 11]
9 Mar	Raymond, pp. 167-217	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 12]
14 Mar	spring break -- no class	
16 Mar	spring break -- no class	
21 Mar	Duncombe, pp. 327-332 (Hoffman, Rubin) Yes Men, pp. 7-76	rough draft #1 due position paper #3 due
23 Mar	Duncombe, pp. 358-369 (Grote) Yes Men, pp. 77-115	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 13]
28 Mar	Duncombe, pp. 316-327 (Frank) Yes Men, pp. 115-190	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 14]
30 Mar	Duncombe, pp. 100-113 (Baudrillard) Negativland, pp. 1-81	[recommended: Booth <i>et al.</i> , ch. 16]
4 Apr	Duncombe, pp. 379-396 (Dominguez) Negativland, pp. 82-187	

6 Apr	Negativland, pp. 188-266	
11 Apr	Duncombe, pp. 157-178 (Cosgrove, Hebdige, Clarke) Hebdige, pp. 1-99	rough draft #2 due position paper #4 due
13 Apr	Duncombe, pp. 118-131 (Reynolds), pp. 178- 182 (Riot Grrrl, Hanna) Hebdige, pp. 100-186	
18 Apr	Duncombe, pp. 240-248 (Woolf) Penley, pp. 1-96	
20 Apr	Duncombe, pp. 259-267 (Radway) Penley, pp. 97-148	
25 Apr	Duncombe, pp. 82-88 (Bakhtin) Kipnis, pp. vii-63	
27 Apr	Duncombe, pp. 215-231 (Levine) Kipnis, pp. 64-92	
2 May	Kipnis, pp. 93-160	position paper #5 due
4 May	Kipnis, pp. 161-206	
9 May	finals week -- no class	final paper and verification pages due

Minor course rules

3-001. Changing course rules. With the sole exception of rule changes proposed in class on 17 Jan (see #3-010 below), all changes/additions/amendments to the course rules must adhere to the four step process described in rules #3-002 through #3-005.

3-002. Proposing rule changes. All potential rule changes must first be proposed on the course listserv. A formal and official proposal will consist of an e-mail to the course listserv in which:

- the subject line takes the form "PROPOSAL #mm-dd-userID" -- where "mm-dd" are numbers representing the date on which the proposal is made and where "userID" consists of the userID portion of the e-mail address used to post the proposal. [Example: a properly formatted subject line for a proposal made by chris283@hotmail.com on 8 Feb would be "PROPOSAL #02-08-chris283"]
- the body contains the precise text -- and only the precise text -- of the proposal that will be put to a formal vote.

Listserv posts that fail to follow the requirements listed above precisely will not be considered to be legitimate proposals. Votes cast on any illegitimate proposals will be null and void.

Proposed rule changes must relate primarily to official course business in a clear and explicit fashion, and must be enforceable within the existing structure of the course. The outcome of any and all ballots must be fully decidable by means of a simple Yes/No vote.

Students may propose a maximum of one (1) official ballot each per course week. In the event that a student proposes more than one legally formatted ballot in a single course week, only the first such ballot proposed will be considered to be legitimate.

3-003. Discussion of proposed rule changes. The successful posting of a properly formatted proposal will automatically start a 72-hour period for open discussion of the proposal in question. The discussion period is intended to give proposal authors the opportunity to assess the potential effects and/or viability of their proposals -- and, if they so desire, to make revisions to their proposals prior to any formal vote. During the discussion period, any and all members of the course (including the professor, GTAs, and students who are otherwise ineligible to vote on the proposal) are welcome to use the listserv to offer questions, suggestions, objections, and/or other commentary on the proposal in question. [N.B.: On-list discussion of proposed rule changes will typically not score participation points.]

3-004. Revision or withdrawal of proposed rule changes. After the discussion period ends, the original proposal author has three options:

(a) To post an official revision to the proposal. Such a revision must follow the same format described in #3-002 above except that the word "PROPOSAL" must be replaced by the word "BALLOT." Once the discussion period has ended and a legally formatted revision has been posted, no further revisions are permitted, and the voting period (see below) begins immediately.

(b) To withdraw the proposal completely. For a withdrawal to be official, the original proposal author must post a message to the listserv that clearly, unambiguously, and unconditionally states her/his desire to withdraw the proposal. Once formally withdrawn, a proposal is not eligible for an official vote unless it is put forward as a new proposal following the rules described here.

(c) To do nothing. If the original proposal author does not post a revised proposal or a withdrawal within 24 hours of the end of the discussion period, then the original proposal automatically becomes a "live" ballot.

3-005. Voting. The official voting period for any and all ballots will last for 72 hours. All voting shall be done offline via private e-mail. Legal votes must be sent to gbroadman@mindspring.com during the official voting period for any given ballot item and must conform to the following rules:

- The subject line must contain the precise identifying portion (i.e., the #mm-dd-userID portion) of the ballot item in question.
- Ballots must originate from an e-mail address that clearly and recognizably belongs to an eligible voter: e.g., a student's official UMN e-mail address or a non-UMN e-mail address that is officially subscribed to the course listserv.
- The body of the e-mailed ballot must contain one and only one of the following three words: Yes, No, Abstain. This word will be recorded as part of the official vote tally for the ballot in question.

Votes on separate ballot items must be submitted in separate e-mails. Votes that are unclear, ambiguous, and/or conditional will be null and void. Once cast, votes cannot be changed or retracted -- so vote *carefully*. Votes that fail to follow these requirements *precisely* will *not* be considered to be legitimate votes, either for deciding the outcome of a ballot or for constituting a quorum.

3-006. Changed rules. Changes to existing rules are considered to have passed if and only if:

- they have been proposed in accordance with the official course rules,
- they have been voted on in accordance with the official course rules,
- they have been judged by the professor not to be "illegal" rule changes, and
- they have received the number of Yes votes necessary to change the rule(s) in question, as determined by their hierarchical type.

3-007. New rules. New rules are considered to have passed if and only if:

- they have been proposed in accordance with the official course rules,
- they have been voted on in accordance with the official course rules, and
- they have been judged by the professor not to be "illegal" rule changes.

Unless their wording specifically states otherwise, new rules will be assigned to a hierarchical category based on the percentage of Yes votes received: i.e., a new rule receiving at least a supermajority Yes vote will be implemented as a major course rule, whereas a new rule receiving only a simple majority Yes vote will be implemented as a minor course rule.

3-008. Effective date of rule changes. Any rule change(s) resulting from a passed ballot shall take effect at the start of the first class meeting following the completion of the voting period. No ballot may have retroactive application, even if its wording explicitly states otherwise.

3-009. Formal record of rule changes. The full text of any rule changes resulting from passed ballots shall be added to the official course rules maintained online at <http://comm.umn.edu/~grodman/outlaws06>

3-010. "First class" ballots. During our first class meeting on 17 Jan, students will have the opportunity to meet in small groups, each of which will collectively review the original course rules. After that review process, each group will be allowed to propose one (1) official ballot item in class. Using the official form provided for this purpose, any such ballot items must be submitted to the professor by the end of class on 17 Jan. The discussion and revision periods for these ballot items will be waived, and the 72-hour voting period will begin immediately after the professor posts the ballot items to the course listserv. For purposes of rule #1-010, grade points for any "first class" ballot item that is officially approved will be awarded to all listed members of the group that originally authored the ballot.

This rule does *not* infringe on the right of any individual student to propose a separate ballot item during the first course week of the semester in accordance with the procedures described above.

N.B.: There are no fewer than five (5) *deliberately* flawed rules in the initial syllabus. Students are *strongly* encouraged to locate these, to propose rule changes that would repeal and/or modify them, and to vote these rule changes into effect. Otherwise, by rule #1-001, even these flawed rules will remain in effect until and unless they are officially changed.