

Professor Manuel Castells
Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism
Research Seminar on the Network Society
COMM 647x
Fall 2024, Section 20940D, 4 Units
Mondays 2:00-4:50 PM

Professor: Manuel Castells, University Professor and the Wallis Annenberg Chair in Communication Technology and Society
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Office Location: ASC 102C (Enter from Watt Way)
Class Schedule: Mondays, 2:00-4:50 PM, Room ASC 228

Description of the Seminar

This is a research seminar that aims to understand the interaction between communication technology, society, economy, politics, and culture in an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective. The focus of the seminar will be the generation of new knowledge on these issues. Students will be required to develop research and original thinking, and to engage in empirical, analytical work leading to research papers of publishable quality. Students are welcome to use the seminar to develop research related to their theses and dissertations.

The seminar will be organized around three elements:

- a) A series of **presentations by the instructor** on selected themes, followed by in-depth discussion in the seminar.
- b) Supporting **readings for every theme** treated in the seminar, and recommended readings for students engaged in a given research topic.
- c) An original, **empirical study conducted by the students** participating in the seminar, leading to the writing of a research paper by the end of the semester. Research topics will be selected in agreement with the instructor. The paper should constitute a small contribution of knowledge in the field, in the form of a potentially publishable article. **Students must present their work** in progress in at least one full session of the seminar during the semester. The session will consider the student's research in its broader theoretical and methodological context. Active participation by all students in each session is required.

The seminar will meet once a week, in a three hour session. Topics for the research paper will be selected within the first 2 weeks of the seminar. All presentations by the instructor will take place in a pre-determined sequence in the first half of the semester. Students should engage in their research early on, and make their own presentations in the second half of the semester. Presentations should be brief, leaving at least two hours for full discussion in the seminar. Special attention will be given to the methodology of research.

Prerequisites

This is in principle a seminar for PhD Students, although some special cases may be considered for graduate students. Social science background is necessary.

Enrolment is limited to 12 students.

No auditing students will be allowed.

Requirements and Grading

- Active participation in every session.
- Engagement in a research project defined in the seminar.
- Presentation(s) of the project in the seminar.
- Writing of a research paper.
- Overall work for this paper is evaluated in about 50 hours of library research, Internet research, calculations and/or field work.

Final paper accounts for 60% of the grade. Research work for 25%. Participation in the seminar for 15%.

Themes of Presentations by the Instructor, chronologically sequenced, one theme per week in accordance to the USC academic calendar.

1. Week 1, Aug. 26: The Theory of the Network Society. Digital Society and Network Society.

Sept. 2: NO CLASS in honor of Labor Day, a national holiday.

2. Week 2, Sept. 9: The Institutional and Cultural Diversity of the Network Society (I): Silicon Valley and the New Economy.
3. Week 3, Sept. 16: The Institutional and Cultural Diversity of the Network Society (II): China Between National Statism and Global Capitalism.
4. Week 4, Sept. 23: Communication and Media in a Digital Environment: From Mass Communication to Mass Self-Communication. Multimedia Business Networks.
5. Week 5, Sept. 30: Social Networking Sites and Social Life in the Internet. Networked Individualism
6. Week 6, Oct. 7: End of Privacy: State Surveillance and Commodification of Data.
7. Week 7, Oct. 14: Education, the Internet, and Artificial Intelligence
8. Week 8, Oct. 21: The Spatial Structure of the Network Society: Space of Flows, Space of Places, and the Networked Metropolis.
9. Week 9, Oct. 28: Social Movements and Politics in the Network Society
10. Week 10, Nov. 4: Presentation and discussion of research papers by the students.

Nov. 11 – NO CLASS in honor of Veteran’s Day, a national holiday.

11. Week 11, Nov. 18: Presentation and discussion of research papers by the students.
12. Week 12, Nov. 25: Presentation and discussion of research papers by the students.
13. Week 13, Dec. 2: Presentation and discussion of research papers by the students.

Note: All topics must be consulted with the Instructor. The subjects may be located in a variety of societies, not necessarily the American context, although only when and if there are accessible sources of information to treat the subject.

Supporting Readings for the Themes Presented by the Instructor

Note: Some of the lectures will be based on unpublished field work research by the instructor.

1. Reading List

This reading list includes selected materials that are relevant to the seminar, but there will be no control of the reading. The knowledge of this material, or equivalent will help the understanding of the lectures and discussions.

1. Frank Webster. *Theories of the Information Society*. London: Routledge, 2002.
2. Bruno Latour *Reassembling the Social. An Introduction to Actor Network Theory*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
3. Manuel Castells (ed). *The Network Society: A Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2004. (Chapter 1 by Manuel Castells: "Informationalism, Networks, and the Network Society: A Theoretical Blueprint.")
<https://annenbergl.usc.edu/sites/default/files/2015/04/28/Informationalism%2C%20Networks%20and%20the%20Network%20Society.pdf>
4. Pekka Himanen *The Hacker Ethic: A Radical Approach to the Philosophy of Business*, New York: Random House, 2002.
5. Manuel Castells *Advanced Introduction to the Digital Society*, London: Edward Elgar, 2024
6. Elinor Ostrom *Understanding Institutional Diversity*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005.
7. Manuel Castells and Pekka Himanen (eds) *Re-conceptualizing Development in the Global Information Age*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. (particularly chapters on Silicon Valley, Finland and China).
8. Gina Neff, *Venture Labor. Work and the Burden of Risk in Innovative Industries*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2012.
9. Robert Shiller. *The Subprime Solution: How Today's Global Financial Crisis Happened and What to Do About It*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.
10. Lee Rainie and Barry Wellman, *Networked. The New Social Operating System*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2012.
11. Mark Graham and William H. Dutton (eds) "*Society and the Internet: How Information and Communication Networks Are Transforming our Lives*", Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019 edition.
12. Karine Nahon and Jeff Hemsley, *Going Viral*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013.
13. Danah Boyd, *It's Complicated. The Social Lives of Networked Teens*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2014.
14. Peter Hall and Kathy Pain. *The Polycentric Metropolis*. London: Earthscan, 2006.
15. William Mitchell *ME++* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003.

16. Charlie Beckett with James Ball, *Wikileaks. News in the Networked Era*, Cambridge: Polity, 2012.
17. Manuel Castells. *Communication Power*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. (2nd edition)
18. Manuel Castells, *Networks of Outrage and Hope*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2015.
19. Manuel Castells, *Rupture. The Crisis of Liberal Democracy*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018.
20. Nancy Baym *Personal Connections in the Digital Age*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2010.
21. Nathaniel Persily and Joshua A. Tucker (eds) *Social Media and Democracy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.
22. Kate Crawford, *Atlas of AI*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021.
23. Jonathan Taplin, *The End of Reality*, New York: Hachette, 2023.

2. Additional Reading

Readings are organized by number according to the themes in the sequence of presentations by the instructor. These readings are advised, not required, as a research seminar assumes a great deal of intellectual autonomy among the students enrolled in the seminar. When the reference is a whole book, it is not expected that the entire book will be read. Instead, the student must find in the book the chapter or chapters that best fit into the issues discussed in the seminar. If any seminar participant needs more specific indications about the reading the instructor will provide it. Books are expected to be in the library. Any book that is not available on campus is not expected to be read during this semester.

Themes

1. The Theory of the Network Society. Digital Society and Network Society.

- Daniel Bell. *The Coming of Post-industrial Society*. Basic Books, 1973, 1976, 1999. Focus on the prefaces to the 1976 and to the 1999 editions.
- Frank Webster. *Theories of the Information Society*. London: Routledge, 2002.
- Fritjof Capra. *Hidden Connections*. New York: Doubleday, 2002.
- Manuel Castells, ed. *The Network Society: A Cross-Cultural Perspective*. London: Edward Elgar, 2004.
- Duncan J. Watts. *Small Worlds: The Dynamics of Networks Between Order and Randomness*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999.
- Yochai Benkler. *The Wealth of Networks*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006.
- Russell Newmann, *The Structure of Communication. Continuity and Diversity in the Digital Age*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

2. The Institutional and Cultural Diversity of the Network Society (I): Silicon Valley and the New Economy.

- Anna L. Saxenian. *Regional Advantage*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1994.
- Anna L. Saxenian. *The New Argonauts*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006.
- Chris Benner *Work in the New Economy, Flexible Labor Markets in Silicon Valley*, John Wiley, 2008.
- Jonathan Taplin “*Move Fast and Break Things. How Facebook, Google, and Amazon cornered culture and undermined democracy*”, New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2017.
- Jonathan Taplin, *The End of Reality*, New York: Hachette, 2023.
- Roger McNamee , *Zucked*, New York, Penguin Press, 2019.

3. The Institutional and Cultural Diversity of the Network Society (II): China between National Statism and Global Capitalism.

- Michael Keith, Scott Lash, Jakob Arnoldi, Tyler Rooker, *China. Constructing Capitalism*, London: Routledge, 2013.
- Xin Zhang, *The Global in the Local. One century of war, commerce, and technology in China*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2023
- Doug Guthrie, *China and Globalization*, London Routledge, 2012
- Yuezhi Zhao. *Communication in China: Political Economy, Power and Conflict*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield 2014.
- You-tien Hsing. *The Great Urban Transformation: Property and Politics in China*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Ma Huateng, *China at Your Fingertips. Mobile Internet and Social Shifts in a Developing Power*. Beijing: China International Publishing Group, 2019.

4. Communication and Media in a Digital Environment: From Mass Communication to Mass Self-Communication. Multimedia Business Networks.

- Amelia Arsenault and Manuel Castells. "The Structure and Dynamics of Global Multimedia Business Networks." In *International Journal of Communication*, volume 2, 2008. Pages 707-748. (Accessible online: www.ijoc.org)
- Robert McChesney. *The Political Economy of Media*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2008.
- Robert McChesney. *The Communication Revolution*. New York: Free Press, 2007.
- Henry Jenkins. *Convergence Culture*. New York: New York University Press, 2006.
- W. Russell Neuman. *The Future of the Mass Audience*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- Eric Klinenberg. *Fighting for Air*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2006.

- Hernan Galperin. *New Television, Old Politics: The Transition to Digital Television in Britain and in the United States*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Banet-Weiser, Sarah, Chris, Cynthia & Freiteitas, Anthony (eds.). *Cable Visions: Television Beyond Broadcasting*. New York: New York University Press, 2007.
- Pablo J. Boczkowski. *Digitizing the News: Innovation in Online Newspapers*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004.
- Lev Manovich. *The Language of New Media*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001.
- Tarleton Gillespie. *Wired Shut: Copyright and the Shape of the Digital Culture*. Cambridge: MIT, 2007.

5. Social Networking Sites and Social Life in the Internet. Networked Individualism.

- Gustavo Cardoso, Angus Cheong and Jeffrey Cole (Editors), “*World Wide Internet: Changing Societies, Economies and Cultures*.” University of Macau. 2009.
- Keith Hampton. “Neighborhoods in the Network Society.” *Information, Communication and Society*, vol. 10, number 5, 2007: 714-748.
- Ronald Rice and James Katz. *Social Uses of the Internet*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2002.
- Manuel Castells *The Internet Galaxy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Barry Wellman and Catherine Haythornthwaite (eds) “*The Internet in Everyday Life*”, Oxford: Blackwell, 2002 Buckingham, D. (ed) *Youth, Identity and Digital Media*, Cambridge: MIT press, 2008.
- Boyd, d. and Ellison, N.”*Social network sites: Definition, history and scholarship*”. *Journal of Computer Mediated Communication*, 13 (1), 2007.
- Richard Ling. *The Mobile Connection: The Cell Phone’s Impact on Society*. San Francisco: Morgan Kaufman, 2004.
- Manuel Castells et al *Mobile Communication and Society*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2006.
- Andre Caron and Letizia Caronia. *Moving Cultures: Moving Communication in Everyday Life*. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2007.
- Sonia Livingstone, *Children and the Internet*, London; Routledge, 2007.
- Claude Fischer. *America Calling: A Social History of the Telephone to 1940*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992.

6. End of Privacy: State Surveillance and Commodification of Data.

- Bruce Schneier, *Liars and Outliers*, Indianapolis: John Wiley, 2012.
- Karine Nahon and Jeff Hemsley, *Going Viral*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013.
- Shoshana Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*, London: Profile Books, 2019.
- Julie Cohen, *Between Truth and Power: The Legal Construction of Informational Capitalism*, Oxford, Oxford University press, 2021

7. Education, the Internet, and Artificial Intelligence

- OECD PISA 2018, Insights and Interpretations, Paris: OECD 2018
- W. Holmes and I. Tuomi “State of the Art and practice in AI in Education”, *European Journal of Education*, 57 (4) 542-570

8. The Spatial Structure of the Network Society: Space of Flows, Space of Places, and the Networked Metropolis

- Peter Hall and Kathy Pain. *The Polycentric Metropolis*. London: Earthscan, 2006.
- Manuel Castells. “Space of Flows, Space of Places: Materials for a Theory of Urbanism in the Information Age.” In Stephen Graham (editor), *The Cybercities Reader*. London: Routledge, 2003. Pages 82-93.
- William Mitchell. *E-topia*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1999.
- William Mitchell. *Me ++* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003.
- Stephen Graham and Marvin Simon. *Splintering Urbanism*. London: Routledge, 2001.
- Stephen Graham (editor). *The Cybercities Reader*. London: Routledge, 2003. Pages 149-238.
- Michael Dear (editor). *From Chicago to L.A.* London: Sage, 2002.
- David Halle (editor). *New York & Los Angeles: Politics, Society, and Culture. A Comparative View*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2003.
- Matthew Zook. *The Geography of the Internet Industry*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.
- Ananya Roy and Nezar Alsayyad (eds). *Urban Informality: Transnational Perspectives from the Middle East, Latin America, and South Asia*. New York: Lexington Books, 2008.
- Lisa Servon. *Bridging the Digital Divide: Technology, Community and Public Policy*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.
- Duangfang Lu. *Remaking Chinese Urban Form: Modernity, Scarcity and Space*, London: Routledge, 2006.
- Robert Neuwirth. *Shadow Cities: A Billion Squatters, a New Urban World*. London: Routledge, 2006.

9. Social Movements and Politics in the Networked Society

- Manuel Castells. “Communication, Power and Counter-power in the Network Society.” *International Journal of Communication*, vol. 1, 2007. Pages 238-266.
- Manuel Castells *Networks of Outrage and Hope. Social Movements in the Internet Age*, Cambridge: Polity Press 2015.
- Mason, Paul. *Why It’s Kicking Off Everywhere. The New Global Revolutions*. London: Verso, 2012.
- Juris, Jeffrey S. *Networking Futures: The Movements Against Corporate Globalization*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2008.
- *Information, Communication and Society*, (2015) “Special Issue: Streets to Screens. Mediating Conflict through Digital Networks”, Volume 18, number 11, November 2015.

- Ho Chuen Ng, "The Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong", *DiggIt Magazine*, 2015. (online)
- Manuel Castells. *Communication Power*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. (second edition)
- David Singh Grewal, *Network Power. The Social Dynamics of Globalization*, New Haven, Yale University Press, 2008.
- Thomas Hollihan. *Uncivil Wars: Political Campaigns in the Media Age*. Bedford: St. Martin's, 2008. (2nd edition)
- Bruce Bimber. *Information and American Democracy. Technology and the Evolution of Political Power*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Araba Sey and Manuel Castells. "Networked Politics: Internet and the Political Process." In Manuel Castells (editor), *The Network Society: a Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2004.
- Elaine Kamarck and Joseph Nye. *Governance.com: Democracy in the Information Age*. Washington DC: Brookings Institution, 2002.
- Helen McCarthy, Paul Miller, and Paul Skidmore. *Network Logic: Who Governs in an Interconnected World*. London: Demos 2004.
- Pippa Norris. *A Virtuous Circle: Political Communications in Postindustrial Societies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- John B. Thompson. *Political Scandal: Power and Visibility in the Media Age*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2000.
- Jeff Juris. *Networked Futures*. London: Duke University Press, 2008.
- John Arquilla and David Rondfeldt. *Networks and Netwars: the Future of Terror, Crime and Militancy*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND National Defense Research Institute, 2002.
- Amelia Arsenault and Manuel Castells. "Conquering the Minds, Conquering Iraq: The Social Production of Misinformation in the United States. A Case Study." *Information, Communication & Society*, 2006, June. Pages 284-307
- Peter Ludlow (ed). *Crypto Anarchy, Cyberstates, and Pirate Utopias*. Cambridge: MIT, 2001.
- Robert M. Entman, *Scandal and Silence. Media Responses to Presidential Misconduct*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2012.

APPENDIX

Selected Relevant Bibliography on Communication and the Network Society.

Scott Lash and Celia Lury. *Global Cultural Industry*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007.

Banet-Weiser, Sarah. *Kids Rule!: Nickelodeon and Consumer Citizenship*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.

Banet-Weiser, Sarah "Branding the Crisis", in Manuel Castells et al (eds) *Aftermath. The Cultures of the Economic Crisis*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. Pages 107-131.

Banet-Weiser, Sarah, Chris, Cynthia & Freiteitas, Anthony (eds.). *Cable Visions: Television Beyond Broadcasting*. New York: New York University Press, 2007.

Marita Sturken, Douglas Thomas and Sanda J. Ball-Rokeach. *Technological Visions: The Hopes and Fears that Shape New Technologies*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004.

Imma Tubella. "Internet, Television, and the Construction of Identity." *The Network Society: A Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Ed. Manuel Castells. London: Edward Elgar, 2004.

Daniel Solove. *The Digital Person*. New York: New York University Press, 2004.

Douglas Thomas. *Hacker Culture*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002.

Ben Anderson. "The Social Impact of Broadband Household Internet Access." *Information, Communication and Society*. Vol. 11, 1, 2008: 5-24.

Katherine Bessiere, et al. *Effects of Internet Use and Social Resources on Changes in Depression*. *Information, Communication and Society*. Vol. 11, 1, 2008: 47-70.

L. Van Zoonen. *Gendering the Internet: Claims, Controversies and Cultures*. *European Journal of Communication*, Vol. 17, 1, 2002: 5-23.

Barry Wellman and Kathy Haythorhwhite (Eds.). *The Internet in Everyday Life*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.

David Couzens Hoy. "The Time of Our Lives." Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2009.

John Thompson. *Books in the Digital Age*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2005.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems (from USC Annenberg)

Academic Integrity

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the [USC Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#)

The School of Communication maintains a commitment to the highest standards of ethical conduct and academic excellence. Any student found responsible for plagiarism, fabrication, cheating on examinations, or purchasing papers or other assignments will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards and may be dismissed from the School of Communication. There are no exceptions to the school's policy.

In addition, it is assumed that the work you submit for this course is work you have produced entirely by yourself and has not been previously produced by you for submission in another course or Learning Lab, without approval of the instructor.

Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class is prohibited without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is also prohibited. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

AI Policy - Permitted on specific assignments

In this course, I encourage you to use artificial intelligence (AI)-powered programs to help you with assignments that indicate the permitted use of AI. You should also be aware that AI text generation tools may present incorrect information, biased responses, and incomplete analyses; thus, they are not yet prepared to produce text that meets the standards of this course. To adhere to our university values, you must cite any AI-generated material (e.g., text, images, etc.) included or referenced in your work and provide the prompts used to generate the content. Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Please review the instructions in each assignment for more details on how and when to use AI Generators for your submissions.

Please ask if you are unsure about what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

Collaboration. In this class, you are expected to submit work that demonstrates your individual mastery of the course concepts.

Group work. Unless specifically designated as a “group project,” all assignments are expected to be completed individually.

Computer programs. Plagiarism includes the submission of code written by, or otherwise obtained from someone else.

If found responsible for an academic violation, students may be assigned university outcomes, such as suspension or expulsion from the university, and grade penalties, such as an “F” grade on the assignment, exam, and/or in the course.

Students and Disability Accommodations

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. [The Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems

[Annenberg Student Success Fund](#)

The Annenberg Student Success Fund is a donor-funded financial aid account available to USC Annenberg undergraduate and graduate students for non-tuition expenses related to extra- and co-curricular programs and opportunities.

[Annenberg Student Emergency Aid Fund](#)

Awards are distributed to students experiencing unforeseen circumstances and emergencies impacting their ability to pay tuition or cover everyday living expenses. These awards are not intended to cover full-tuition expenses, but rather serve as bridge funding to guarantee students' continued enrollment at USC until other resources, such as scholarships or loans, become available. Students are encouraged to provide as much information in their application, as well as contact their academic advisor directly with questions about additional resources available to them.

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL)
– 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.

[TrojansAlert](#)

TrojansAlert is an alert system that allows university officials to contact you during an emergency. It is your connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact and other important information. Visit the website to sign up.

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university's site on [Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness](#).

[ITS Customer Support Center \(CSC\)](#): (213) 740-5555

The ITS Customer Support Center (CSC) provides support to the USC community for connecting to the USC Network and using supported applications. For help with network connectivity and software, contact CSC. Walk-in support is available in Leavey Library's Information Commons.

[Violence-Free Campus](#)

Visit the website to read more about prohibited behaviors, reporting responsibilities and where to report.

Student-Athlete Travel Excuse Letters

Prior to a university-sponsored away competition, Student-Athletes are responsible for providing their Instructor with a Competition Excuse Letter (provided by their academic counselor) for the classes missed while on the road (i.e., excused absence). It is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to provide the letter prior to leaving on their trip and to make arrangements for a make-up of any missed assignments or exams. Please refer to the [SAAS site](#) where they detail travel and travel excuse letters.