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| MA Social Media, Culture and Society  ORIENTATION TIMETABLE |
| COURSE LEADER WELCOME Congratulations on being accepted to the MA Social Media, Culture and Society at the University of Westminster. As Course Leader, I look forward to working with you on your postgraduate degree. This letter includes information about your schedule for Orientation Week in September. We will provide a full timetable for the year in Orientation Week; as a general guide, you should expect to have classes on three different days each week. I have also included a short list of suggested books that will help you to get a good start in your studies before arrival. |
| 2019 is the seventh year that this course has run, and in its first six years our students have come from Argentina, Brazil, China, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Iran, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the UK and the US. One of the benefits of such a diverse student community is the opportunity to share knowledge, culture and experience from around the world. I am sure you will find your time with us in London to be productive, rewarding and enjoyable. |
| I’ve created a Facebook group just for students on this course starting in September. Please join it and introduce yourselves. That way we can all start to meet each other over the summer. You can, of course, create your own class groups on other platforms once the course begins. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MASocialMedia201920>.  If you have any questions, you can email me at: [g.meikle@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:g.meikle@westminster.ac.uk).  Best wishes, and welcome to the University of Westminster. See you soon.  Professor Graham Meikle |
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| **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**  In the introductory session at 10.00 in room A1.04 at the Harrow campus, we will meet each other and introduce ourselves. Professor Meikle will explain the course structure, and advise about choosing option modules. It is essential that you attend on this day to make sure you receive all relevant material, such as your student ID card, module selection and timetable, and details of where to access the learning resources you will need.  At 13.00 there will also be a welcome from the Head of School of Media and Communication.  Also on Wednesday 18 September, the Student Union holds its Arrivals Fair from 11.00 to 16.00, where you can sign up for a huge range of social and sport clubs and activities.  Classes begin on Monday 23 September. |
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| **READING LIST**  Lecturers will provide a detailed handbook for each module when classes start, including a full reading list. There are normally several weekly readings for each module. Most readings are usually available online or in the library, but students should also expect to purchase some books throughout their studies. If you would like to get started on your reading before September, some useful books for preliminary reading include:   * Baym, N. K. (2015). *Personal Connections in the Digital Age.* 2nd ed. Cambridge: Polity. * Fuchs, C. (2017). *Social Media: A Critical Introduction.* 2nd ed. London: Sage. * Hinton, S. and Hjorth, L. (2013). *Understanding Social Media.* London: Sage. (A new second edition will be published in September 2019). * Meikle, G. (2016). *Social Media: Communication, Sharing and Visibility.* New York: Routledge. |