

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication and Media Studies COMS 591 S02
Media and Memory

Fall 2016

Mon., Sept. 12 – Friday, Dec. 8 (excluding October 10)

Lectures: M 14:00-16:45

Instructor: Dr. Samantha C. Thrift
Office: SS 210
Office Phone: 403-220-5320
E-Mail: samantha.thrift@ucalgary.ca
Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: Mondays, 11:30-12:30; Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 (or by app't)

Course Description

Media and Memory provides an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of media memory studies, examining the role of media in producing memory and memory communities. The seminar begins with brief exploration of prehistoric mnemonic devices and early metaphors of memory in order to set the stage for the central questions of the course: how do media interact with, extend, and shape human memory? How are digital technologies changing what we remember (and how)? This seminar defines media broadly, and students will consider how memory functions across various channels, including the photographic image, roadside memorials, social network sites as well as official sites of cultural memory like archives, museums, and architectural phenomena, such as monuments and memorials. We will investigate key themes and conceptual frameworks in media memory studies, such as media events, (re)mediation, nostalgia, flashbulb memories, and amnesiac societies, in order to elucidate the social and political significance of mediated memory for individuals and communities.

Additional Information

A combination of lecture, class discussion and student presentations will comprise the weekly meetings of this course. There is also a class field trip scheduled to visit a local memory site.

Objectives of the Course

1. To integrate communication knowledge and skills gained from formal and informal learning at the postsecondary level.
2. To differentiate and assess key debates and theories of memory based on changing media environments.
3. To identify, describe and interpret the political and cultural significance of local memory sites.
4. To build communication skills and understanding through multimedia project design, presentations, and written expression.

Textbooks and Readings

A digital course pack has been prepared and will be made available on the COMS 591 S02 course website.

Internet and electronic communication device information

The in-class use of computers for activities other than note-taking purposes will not be tolerated. Therefore, cell phones and other electronic communication devices must be set to mute upon entering the classroom and should not be used in the classroom or during class time. If students engage in non-course related online activity during class, the professor will request that they power down their device for the remainder of class time. No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without the explicit permission of the instructor.

Email

When corresponding with the instructor via email, students should include the course name (ex. Media & Memory) in the subject line. If you do not include the course name in your email's subject line, your message may get overlooked in the instructor's inbox and go unread! Please maintain a respectful tone in your correspondence with the instructor.

Email is most useful for short, specific inquiries. If you have detailed questions on the course material, assignments, or grades, visit the instructor during office hours.

The instructor will respond to emails during the week, usually on a first-come, first-served basis. Emails sent in the evening or on weekends will not be read (or replied to) until the next working day.

NOTE: Email submissions of work will NOT be accepted unless otherwise specified.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Course components	Due
10%	Participation	Oct. 3, Oct. 24, Nov. 14, Nov. 28
15%	Memorial Site Study	Oct. 7 (via email)
20%	Campus Mapping Project	Nov. 7
25%	Multimedia Memoir & Presentation	Student choice (Oct. 17 – Nov. 28)
30%	Mediated Memory Analysis	Dec. 5

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

NOTE: All assignments and exams weighted more than 20% must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Participation (10%) due: October 3, October 24, November 14, November 28

One purpose of a seminar like this is to encourage students to form their own ideas and share them with their peers. The very work of the course consists of engaging in a discussion of ideas. To this end, students must come to class having carefully read the day's assigned readings, be ready and willing to discuss issues raised in the readings, offer informed, critical responses to video screenings, listen to classmates' remarks attentively and responding in a constructive, respectful manner.

Participation will be evaluated in two ways. First, students will write four in-class reflections that will be administered at any point during class (see dates above). The reflection may be based on the day's reading or class discussion. Each reflection is worth 2 points. Any missed reflections cannot be made-up or re-scheduled.

The final two points of the participation grade will be based on students' successful uploading of their campus memorial archives to an interactive map (described below). Students will meet with the instructor to learn how to do this during the second half of the semester. More details to be announced in class.

Memorial Site Study (15%) due: Friday, October 7 (4pm via email)

For this project, each student will choose a local (i.e., Calgary-based) memorial site to study and observe. Two goals of this project are for you to provide full information about its history and to analyze the way(s) in which the memorial's medium affects your understanding and experience of it. For this assignment you must substantively reference the work of two course readings from those assigned up to (and including) October 3rd. This assignment is due on Friday, October 7th and will be submitted via email to the professor (subject line: Memory Site Study) by 4pm. NOTE: Any submissions received after 4pm will be subject to a late penalty. Word count: 1000-1500.

Campus Mapping Project (20%) due: November 7th

Students will select and document 2 campus memory sites (i.e., commemorative benches, buildings, ritual location, tribute, installation or other site of memory work). Each submission must include a two-page (approx. 500-750 word) history and description of the location as a "memory site": when was it created, who does it memorialize and why, why does it take the form it does (i.e., the medium, permanent or temporary), where is it located on campus and why, and other information the student deems significant to broader understanding of the particular memory site. In addition, the student will visually document the site (ex. photograph) and include this with their submission. More details will be provided in class.

The goal of this assignment is to generate an archive of campus memory sites that will be presented on an interactive map. To avoid duplication, students must confirm their two selected memory sites by October 3rd.

Multimedia Memoir & Presentation (25%) due: Oct. 17 through Nov. 28

The seminar will also include presentation of your multimedia memoirs, in which you attempt to capture or render a vivid memory of an important event or person or scene in your life, using at least two media. You might, for example, begin by writing about a vividly remembered event in your life; then recording the piece of writing in your own (or multiple) voices; then illustrating it with visual images; then adding a sound track and producing the entire piece as a digital file on a USB. You will have 10-15 minutes to do your presentation based on this memoir, and you must hand-in a copy of your memoir (on USB key or other format appropriate to your memoir) to the professor.

Mediated Memory Analysis (30%) due: December 5

The main piece of writing for this course is an 8-page (approx. 2000 word) analysis of the mediated construction of memory based on a specific case study. The essay must be

accompanied by a complete, properly formatted bibliography (using either APA or MLA citation style). Further details will be provided in class.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at marked final exams in SS 320. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is students' responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

- Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.
- When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.
- For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html> and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. In this course, raw point scores will be used to evaluate written assignments and in-class participation assignments, while letter grades will be used for presentations.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. In calculating final grades in this course, letter grades will be converted to the midpoint of the percentage range, as shown in the final column of the table below.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations* **
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	0- 49.99%	0%

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

** These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and

other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436>. If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Research Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
SU WELLNESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus <p>If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.</p>

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

Lecture Date	Topic & Reading	Deadlines
Sept 12	Course Introduction For discussion: Douwe Draaisme. "Memoria: Memory as Writing." <i>Metaphors of Memory: A History of Ideas about the Mind</i> . Translated by Paul Vincent. Cambridge University Press, 2000, 24-48.	
Sept 19	Communities of Memory Iwona Irwin-Zarecka. "Communities of Memory." <i>Frames of Remembrance: The Dynamics of Collective Memory</i> . Transaction Publishers, 47-65.	
Sept 26	lieux de mémoire Jay Winter. "Sites of Memory and the Shadow of War." <i>A Companion to Cultural Memory Studies: An International and Interdisciplinary Handbook</i> . Eds. Astrid Erll, Ansgar Nünning, and Sara Young. De Gruyter, 2010, 61-74.	Class field trip to Poppy Plaza & area.
Oct 3	Affect & Public Mourning Erica Doss. "Grief: Temporary Memorials and Contemporary Modes of Mourning." <i>Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America</i> . University of Chicago Press, 2010, 61-116.	Memory Site Studies (15%) Due Friday, October 7 @ 4pm Confirm campus map sites.

Oct 10	No Class (Thanksgiving)	
Oct 17	<p>The Archive as Memory Keeper Joan M. Schwarz and Terry Cook. "Archives, Records and Power: The Making of Modern Memory." <i>Archival Science</i> Vol. 2 (2002): 1-19.</p> <p>Recommended: Ann Cvetkovich. "In the Archives of Lesbian Feelings: Documentary and Popular Culture." <i>Camera Obscura</i>, vol. 49, June 2002, pp. 107-147.</p>	Archive Workshop
Oct 24	<p>Personal Memory Jose van Dijk. "Memory Matters in the Digital Age." <i>Mediated Memories in the Digital Age</i>. Stanford University Press, 2007, 27-52.</p>	
Oct 31	<p>Flashbulb Memories Alison Winter. "Flashbulb Memories." <i>Memories: Fragments of a Modern History</i>. University of Chicago Press, 2012, 157-178.</p> <p>For discussion: Jill A. Edy. "Collective Memory in a Post-Broadcast World." <i>Journalism and Memory</i>. Eds. Barbie Zelizer and Karen Tenenboim-Weinblatt. Palgrave-Macmillian, 2014, 66-84.</p>	
Nov 7	<p>Prosthetic Memory Alison Landsberg. "Prosthetic Memory." <i>Prosthetic Memory: The Transformation of American Remembrance in the Age of Mass Culture</i>. Columbia University Press, 2004, 25-48.</p>	Campus Mapping Due (20%)
Nov 14	<p>Nostalgia Guest Lecture: Dr. Emily Truman, Postdoctoral Fellow (Department of Communication, Media and Film)</p>	Readings TBA.
Nov 21	<p>Journalism & Memory Michael Schudson. "Journalism as a Vehicle of Non-Commemorative Cultural Memory." <i>Journalism and Memory</i>. Eds. Barbie Zelizer and Karen Tenenboim-Weinblatt. Palgrave-Macmillian, 2014, 85-96.</p>	

Nov 28	Virtual Memorials Paige Gibson and Steve Jones. "Remediation and Remembrance: 'Dancing Auschwitz' Collective Memory and New Media." <i>Journal for Communication Studies</i> , vol. 5, no. 2(10), 2012, pp. 107-131.	
Dec 5	Wild Card!	Mediated Memory Analysis Due (30%)