

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
Communication and Media Studies COMS 485 L01
Environmental Media and Communication
WINTER 2019
We 2:00PM - 4:45PM
Jan 10, 2019-Apr 12, 2019 (excluding Feb. 20th)

Instructor: Dr. Hogan
Office: SS310
Office Phone: 220-3248
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Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: 12:00 to 1:00 Thursdays or by appointment.

Course Description

Environmental Media engages an array of media texts, discourses, and objects, to understand the mutual entanglements of media and environment. The course content is divided into 3 parts:

1. *Representations of the Environment* - we look at documentary films, media campaigns, advertisements, etc., to understand and analyse how 'nature,' 'wilderness' and 'the outdoors' are created and sustained as important concepts (in relation to, for example, the technological sublime, environmental justice, race and privileged spaces, and historical understandings of Nature/Culture).
2. *Materialities & Infrastructures* - we look at the lifecycle of our current global communications infrastructures, from mining rare earth minerals for electronic devices, to e-waste disposal, to cell towers, data centers, and everything that connects the wired world.
3. *The Environment as Medium* - we look globally at how 'natural disasters', climate change, and air pollution become inscribed into the environment, and how nature itself becomes medium and message.

Objectives of the Course

- to demonstrate an ability to read and interpret texts in the field
- to describe how communication plays a significant role in the framing and discussion of environmental problems and solutions historically
- to survey and compare a wide variety of media (podcasts, print ads, documentaries, websites, etc) for the way they tell a story about the environment

- to produce written and oral discourse appropriate to the field
- to further develop your analytical, writing, and communication skills
- to work cooperatively in groups and become familiar with methods of peer evaluation

Textbooks and Readings

Readings are posted on the Desire2Learn (D2L) course website.

Internet and electronic communication device information

No cell phones allowed during class. If you'd like to take notes on an electronic device, bring in your laptop or tablet. Stay off Facebook and all social media, games, and texting, etc., during class. (You can check your cell phone during break, or step outside the class to make urgent calls.) For these reasons, and to help you be less distracted and retain more, you're strongly encouraged to take notes by hand!

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Course components	Due
30%	<p><u>Midterm</u>: 2 hours, in class, closed book</p> <p>Midterm</p> <p>This will be a closed book in-class midterm. It will take up to 2 hours and will cover everything up to this point. You will not have access to your notes or readings. The midterm will be a mix of multiple-choice questions and short essay questions based on the readings and in-class discussions.</p>	Mar 6
40%	<p><u>Final paper</u>:</p> <p>3000 - 3500 words, final paper 30% presentation 10%</p> <p>Final Paper</p> <p>You will write a research paper linking media and the environment, as covered in class. Position your paper using one of the weekly themes. You will present a short (5 minute) synopsis of your paper in class.</p>	Apr 10
30%	<p><u>Group Presentations</u></p> <p>Sign up for dates and readings</p>	Ongoing

	<p>Group Presentations</p> <p>You will sign up for a group presentation based on one of the readings during the first week of class. You will be asked to do a 20-minute presentation and facilitate a 10-minute question and answer period relating to the presentation and theme of the week.</p>	
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Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

You do not need to complete all assignments and exams in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible [and upload to D2L when a DropBox is made available]. 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 photo 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/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>

Note: It is the student's 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 and Deferrals:

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) or for another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require that a medical note be presented. For the policy on supporting documentation the use of a statutory declaration, please see the following:

- Section N.1 of the *University Calendar*.
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>
- FAQs for Students at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

Note that 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 that of another assignment or test.

For information on deferrals, see the following sections in the *University Calendar*:

- Section G.7 Deferral of Term Work at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>
- Section G.6 Deferral of Final Exam at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

Final grades are reported as letter grades. All course components will be marked using letter grades. 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 performance	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent performance	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70	Approaching excellent performance	A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30	Exceeding good performance	B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%

3.00	Good performance	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70	Approaching good performance	B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory performance	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance	C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Failure. Did not 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.

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 support services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library). Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

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 at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436>. Research and citation resources are also available on the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) website at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/> If you have questions about citing sources, please consult your instructor or visit the writing support services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library, at <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, including 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; https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising
CAMPUS SECURITY & Safewalk Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Calgary Police Service · Emergency Text Messaging · Emergency Evacuation & Assembly 	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

<p>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · IT help line 	<p>http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</p> <p>403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca</p>
<p>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Writing Support Services · Events & Info for Students 	<p>http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</p>
<p>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Faculty of Arts Reps · Student Ombuds 	<p>https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</p>
<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Health Services · Mental Health Services · Distress entre 24/7 CRISIS LINE · Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</p> <p>403-266-HELP (4357)</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</p> <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: Will be available on D2L