

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

COMS 581 (L01): Senior Project in BCMS/BFS

WINTER 2020: January 13 to April 15 (excluding Feb. 16-22)

Lecture: Tuesdays 15:30 to 16:20 Lab 01 T 16:30-18:20

Instructor:	Dr. Samantha Thrift
Office:	SS-210 In-person office hours cancelled until further notice. Contact via email.
Office Phone:	(403)- 220-5320
Email:	samantha.thrift@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 1:00 to 2:30 pm or by appointment

Course Description

An advanced research and experiential project incorporating academic research and media production. The project will be produced in a medium appropriate to the student's specialization: print, radio, television, video, film or digital media.

Additional Information

This course supports students' development and execution of a media-based research-creation project. Research-creation provides an academic framework for undergraduates interested in producing work that combines theoretical/conceptual inquiry with media-based practice. Students' final projects will be presented at an end of semester showcase.

This semester, student projects will be oriented around the theme "Innovation Untold." Working with campus-based innovators, students will document the personal narratives of faculty and students engaging in critical and creative research that aims to address social, political, economic or other issues impacting local communities. As storytellers, students in COMS 581 are invited to think critically (and creatively) about the form and function of storytelling as a method of exploring innovation: what (and who) is recognized as innovative? How might storytelling contest dominant paradigms of innovation as a linear process? What is the meaning of innovation, both for the innovator and the people and communities impacted?

This project is being run in partnership with Innovate Calgary, a campus-based incubator that aims to bridge the gap between discovery and societal need.

This course may not be repeated for credit.

Objectives of the Course

The course will help the student to:

1. Integrate theoretical research and applied practice in media production.

2. Increase understanding of theoretical constructs, methodological approaches and research skills while reflecting upon their value in application to specific productions.
3. Exchange ideas and experiences that will broaden understanding of the field of media production and research-creation.
4. Investigate the efficacy of storytelling as a research method through the creation of a storytelling assignment.

Textbooks and Readings

No textbook is required. Required readings have been posted on D2L, and additional readings may be assigned according to the project.

Policy on the use of Electronic Communication Devices

When corresponding with the instructor via email, students should include the course name (ex. Senior Project or COMS 581) 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 by the instructor.

Assignments and Evaluation

All assignments must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

If you miss a required course component, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Weight	Course components	Due
10%	Initial Plan submission (via D2L)	Jan. 28
5%	Interview Questions (via D2L)	Feb. 4
20%	Reading Report (7-8 pages; hard copy submission)	Feb. 11
15%	Work-in-Progress (WiP) Presentation	Mar. 3
15%	"Full Draft" Presentations (Online)	Mar. 17 or Mar. 24
5%	Presentation Feedback (2 Online Comments – 2.5% each)	Mar. 17 & Mar. 24
30%	Final Submission (Project & 5-6 page Critical Reflection)	Apr. 7 Apr. 14
5%	Showcase (2.5% Prep & 2.5% Participation)	Mar 31. & Apr. 7

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Submission of Assignments

For D2L submissions:

- 581 seminar documents will be submitted via D2L using the following file name format: LastnameFirstname – Assignment Name.docx

For hard copy submissions:

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments and hand in your essays directly to your instructor or tutor. If you are unable to do so, please use the drop box 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. **Note:** It is your responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that you submit the proper version (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission).

Be prepared to provide photo ID to pick up assignments in SS 320. Private information related to individual students is treated with the utmost regard by University of Calgary faculty. Student assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty, and personal information is collected in accordance with the ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act***. Please note that instructors may use audio or video recorded for lesson capture, assessment of student learning, and self-assessment of teaching practices.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of 5% or a partial letter grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Assignments submitted one week or more after the due date will not be accepted, unless accommodations have been arranged with the instructor.

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation 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 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, see Section M.1 of the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>. Also see FAQs for Students: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

Expectations for Writing

Department policy directs that all written assignments and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses 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 and proper documentation of research sources. For further information, please refer to the *University of Calgary Calendar* section on writing across the curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

The following table outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. Final grades are reported as letter grades. For components graded using percentages or numerical scores, those values will be used directly in calculating the final course grade, while for components graded using letter grades, the letter grades will be converted to the midpoint values listed in the final column of the table below in calculating the final course grade.

In this course, final grades are reported as letter grades. In this course, percentage scores will be used for grading the reading report and final project, while raw scores will be used to assess all other graded components. 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, the calculated percentage grade will be translated to the corresponding letter grade according to the Department of CMF grade scale equivalents (ex. a calculated percentage score of 84% will receive a final letter grade of B+).

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%

* Column 4: If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades. Column 5: 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. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

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.

For information on citation and documentation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago, IEEE, etc.), visit the Student Success Centre resource links at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support> or the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) Research and Citation Resources at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html

If you need help with your writing or have questions about citing sources, please consult your instructor or visit the Student Success Centre, 3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library. To book an appointment, go to https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success?utm_source=ssc&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=redirect

Instructor Intellectual Property & Copyright Legislation

Course materials created by the instructor (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the same course section and term may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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 obtaining research ethics approval and for following university research ethics guidelines. The instructor has applied for course-based ethics approval for assignments in this course.

For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, please see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/arts-researchers/resources-researchers-and-instructors/ethics>

Deferrals of Course Work and Requests for Reappraisal

For university regulations and procedures related to deferrals of exams and course work, requests for reappraisals, and other matters, please see the relevant sections in the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html>

Student Support Services and Resources

Please visit <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information about student support services and resources, including Wellness and Mental Health Resources, Student Success programs and services, the Student Ombuds Office, the Student Union, and Safewalk.

For resources on D2L, visit <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students>. IT support is available at itsupport@ucalgary.ca or by calling 403-220.5555.

Schedule of Lecture Topics & Activities

Meeting Dates	Topics	Activities/Deadlines
Jan. 14	Course Overview: Innovation Untold - All about Ethics (informed consent, release forms, and more)	Review the list of Innovators
Jan. 21	Storytelling as Method/Methods of Storytelling	DMC Orientation: TFDL 3 rd floor @ 3:30pm.
Jan. 28	Innovator meet and greet	Initial Plans due (D2L, end of class)
Feb. 4	Storytelling Strategies, Pt. I - Guest speaker (TBA)	Innovator/student partnerships finalized. Interview Questions due. Innovator meeting: present "initial plan" for feedback/approval.
Feb. 11	Storytelling Strategies, Pt. II - Guest speaker: Humainology	Reading Report due. Story Capture w Innovators (Feb. 11-25).
Feb. 18	Reading Break (No Class)	
Feb. 25	What are critical reflections?	Story Capture complete.
Mar. 3	Work-in-Progress Presentations	WiP Presentations.
Mar. 10	Individual consultations/Work time	
Mar. 17	"Full Draft" Presentations – Online Posting & Commenting	
Mar. 24	"Full Draft" Presentations – Online Posting & Commenting	Innovator email/virtual meeting: present "full draft" of project for approval (prior to entering Innovation Untold competition).
Mar. 31	Individual work time	Innovator email/virtual meeting: present "full draft" of project for approval (if not yet done)

Apr. 7	Showcase. Showcase Cancelled Individual work time	
Apr. 14	Project Debrief (online discussion / surveys)	Final Projects & Critical Reflections due.