University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication and Media Studies COMS 591 S02
SENIOR SEMINAR IN COMUNICATION AND MEDIA

FALL 2018

Fri., September 7 – Fri. December 7 (Excluding November 12-16)

Wednesdays and Fridays 15:30-16:45

Instructor:	Dr. Tania S. Smith
Office:	SS 302
Office Phone:	403-220-7774 – Voice mail only
E-Mail:	smit@ucalgary.ca Please put "591" in the subject line.
Web Page:	D2L (Brightspace) available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours:	Tues. 11:15-12:15, Thurs. 11:15-12:15, and by appointment. To schedule an appointment, use this calendar LINK

Course Description

Explores the variety of ways in which communication builds social and cultural values with reference to a special topic. Completion of a major project that will integrate understanding of communication theory, history and methodology.

Additional Information

The theme of this section is "Civility and citizenship online." We will focus on communication in the context of interactive public online forums such as the comments under news stories, videos and blogs, as well as forums and discussions on public social media.

"Civility" is one of the values guiding our inquiry. In recent years, many have become concerned that online discourse has become less civil. Therefore, we will explore the various signals of civility and incivility and their implications for the health of our society.

"Citizenship" or civic participation is an important complementary value. When standing against injustice and defending rights, one cannot always be entirely civil. One must stand firm and be truthful and honest. Nevertheless, a good citizen should still argue reasonably about facts, values and policies.

The course will approach the theme primarily from the perspective of Charles Bazerman's *A Rhetoric of Literate Action* and *A Theory of Literate Action*. Students will also integrate their prior communication degree knowledge into discussions, activities and assignments.

Objectives of the Course
- To deepen your understanding of the course themes
- To understand and apply perspectives on communication found in assigned texts

- To integrate and apply other relevant knowledge and theories you've learned during your communication degree
- To develop advanced writing, critical analysis and research skills
- To learn through participation and discussion in academic and public online forums

Textbooks and Readings

These are free, online textbooks (with Creative Commons license, Open Textbook Library).

Bazerman, C. (2013). *A Rhetoric of Literate Action: Literate Action* **Volume 1.** Fort Collins, CO: WAC Clearinghouse. Retrieved from https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=307

Bazerman, C. (2013). *A Theory of Literate Action: Literate Action* **Volume 2.** Fort Collins, CO: WAC Clearinghouse. Retrieved from https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=308

Book titles are abbreviated in the schedule as RL1 and TL2.

Internet and electronic communication device information

During student presentations, all electronic devices must be put away or face-down, and laptop monitors must be closed. At all times, use technology silently and discreetly.

Assignments and Evaluation

%	Course component	Due
25%	**Participation.** Regular quality contributions to in-class discussion and activities, and weekly online discussion that uses readings or lectures. Online participation involves >300 words comprising 1 unique post per week, plus 2 replies per week. Score given in two phases: 1. to Oct. 19 = 7.5% in class 5% online, Phase 2 Oct 24 to Dec 6 = 7.5% in class 5% online.	During class time and weekly online
20%	**Student-led activity.** A 500-word draft (plan) and scheduled in-class draft peer review activity are required, or a 10% late penalty may be applied to the final score. Students will individually lead a 20-minute guided group activity on the day's assigned reading, applied to a sample of interactive online communication among people, and will co-facilitate (with the instructor) the subsequent class discussion.	Draft: Sep 21 Review: Sep 26 Sign up online.
20%	**Presentation:** A presentation draft (outline) and a draft peer-review activity are required, or a 10% late penalty may be applied to the final score. The presentation is a focused critical analysis of public (in)civility online, using a different artifact from your other COMS 591 assignments. It will introduce and apply one or two relevant concepts you've learned in other courses. It is 12-15 minutes long, well researched, uses both images and text on slides, and is addressed to the class as the target audience. A PowerPoint with citations & references is required. Submit the .pptx file to D2L before class on the day you present.	Draft: Oct 12 Review: Oct 17 Sign up online.

35%	**Term project** Draft and review also required. 2000 words of well-researched reflective analysis, plus discourse samples of one's own communication in the context of online forums. During the term, students will engage in interactive online discourse in at least two different public forums, engaging in "civil/civic" literate action to deepen understanding and enhance communication. This communication in context will be the object of reflective analysis.	Draft: Nov 23 Review: Nov 28 Final: Dec. 05

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

The term project must be completed to receive a passing grade in the course.

Submission of Assignments

NO email submission: Submit each assignment to its designated area in D2L / Brightspace.

Privacy: Include your name and ID number on the first page of all assignments EXCEPT writings that are viewable by peers. 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

Assignment Length: If a range is specified (i.e. 800-1000 words, or 7-10 minutes), keep within the range. If a target length is specified, i.e. 500 words, length may go above or below by 10%.

Penalties up to 10% may apply to assignments below or above length, depending on the degree to which they do not fit length.

Length includes your original sentences in the body of the assignment from the opening of the introductory paragraph to the end of the conclusion. Simply select the text of your body in MS Word, click "Review" and then "Word count" and subtract any block quotes longer than 40 words. (Not counted in official length are title pages and memo headers, references, tables, figures, captions, page headers and footers, and block quotations longer than 40 words.) If many in-text citations, for example (Smith, 2018, p. 3) are the only reason for being over length, it will be forgiven.

In presentations, unplanned technical difficulties and very short sample audio/video clips are not included in presentation time. Limit audio/video samples to less than 10% of the maximum presentation time.

File format: Submit assignment files only in .DOC or .DOCX format, Power Points in .PPT or .PPTX, or in an alternative format specified in the assignment instructions. The instructor usually uses Microsoft Office to comment and grade. If the formatting is distorted by conversion, you may submit a 2nd file as a PDF and note this within your MS Office file.

File Names: Always use this file name format. It will create a positive first impression. It helps the instructor and student groups identify and organize files after downloading them.

- "591-AssignmentName-Surname-Firstname.docx" for individual files
- "591-AssignmentName-SurnameA-SurnameB.docx" for group files
- To distinguish draft from a final version, end with ...DRAFT.docx or ...FINAL.docx

File submission comments: If you have an important comment to submit with your file, do not use the comment area within the D2L dropbox. Email the instructor or include the comment in a footnote within the first page or two of your file.

Verify your submission: D2L submission receipts do NOT verify that your file's content is not corrupted, empty, or consists of an earlier draft. Verify your file's content after upload by re-opening it from its link within your assignment dropbox in D2L.

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. Consider using automatic backup to an online service.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments and drafts submitted online are due at 11:59 pm on their deadline day.

- FINAL Presentation PowerPoint files are due before class begins when you present, as assigned. Come at least 5 minutes early to upload your PowerPoint to the console before class begins. Missing or rescheduling a presentation less than 7 days before the date of the presentation may result in a late penalty of one letter grade.
- FINAL Discussion activity files are due before class begins on the day you lead discussion. Missing or rescheduling less than 7 days before the date may result in a late penalty of one letter grade.
- FINAL versions of assignments worth 10% or more: a 24-hour grace period is permitted for late submission due to short term illness, personal responsibilities, or scheduling challenges. No excuse is needed. This is NOT a deadline extension. If submitted more than 24 hours late, late penalties count from the original deadline.

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of one letter 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

Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

Final grades are reported as letter grades.

During the term, written assignments and presentations will be given letter grades and their percentage equivalent. Letter grades will be converted to the midpoint of the percentage range (B+ = 82.5), as shown in the final column of the table below.

Borderline letter grades may also be given for assignments, i.e. a B/B+ borderline grade will be recorded as 80.

For exams, quizzes, and online activities, raw percentage grades (i.e. 32.5%, 61.5%) will be maintained. These scores will not be converted to a letter grade and its percentage. Therefore, a score of 32.5% will not turn into F/0 but will remain 32.5 in calculations.

In calculating final grades in this course, each component's percentage score will be weighted and added to the total. The total percentage will then be converted to a letter grade according to the ranges in the table below.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film.

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.

This course requires citation and reference lists in APA style.

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. Research and citation resources are also available on the website of the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/ If you have questions about how to document 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 (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

In this course, you must not engage in any research on human participants. You may analyze any public communication artifacts including those posted by yourself.

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 • 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 • IT help line	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE • 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 • 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 • 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 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.

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

This is the preliminary schedule. The official schedule is online at this link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BEZ3vGnhjSpbtvLxiveZOpRYBZvWdlE1ltLcwNohVoQ/edit#gid=0

Book titles are abbreviated in the schedule as RL1 and TL2.

Date	Day	Readings for homework	Deadlines
2018-09-07	Fri	Definitions. Civility, Citizenship. RL1.1. Rhetorics of speaking & writing	

2018-09-12	Wed	RL1.2. Knowing Where You Are: Genre.; RL1-3. When You Are.	Activity groups will be assigned
2018-09-14	Fri	RL1.4. The world of texts. RL1-5. Changing the Landscape;	add deadline
2018-09-19	Wed	RL1.7. Text Strategics; RL1-12. Managing Writing Processes;	
2018-09-21	Fri	RL1.11. Style and Revision	Activity plan due
2018-09-26	Wed	(read assigned activity plans)	Activity peer rev
2018-09-28	Fri	RL1.6. Emergent Motives, Situations, Forms;	Student-led activities begin
2018-10-03	Wed	RL1.8. Emergent Form	
2018-10-05	Fri	RL1.9. Meanings and Representations;	
2018-10-10	Wed	RL1.10. Spaces and Journeys for Readers	
2018-10-12	Fri	TL2.1. The Symbolic Animal	Pres draft due
2018-10-17	Wed	(read assigned presentation drafts)	Pres peer rev
2018-10-19	Fri	TL2.2. Symbolic Selves	Presentations begin
2018-10-24	Wed	TL2.3. Vygotzkian	Participation phase 1 end
2018-10-26	Fri	TL2.4. Phenomenological	
2018-10-31	Wed	TL2.5. Pragmatic	
2018-11-02	Fri	TL2.6. Social order: Sociology	
2018-11-07	Wed	TL2.7. Interaction order, Shared meanings	
2018-11-09	Fri	(term project workshop)	
2018-11-14	Wed		Reading week
2018-11-16	Fri		Reading week
2018-11-21	Wed	TL2.8. Linguistic orders	
2018-11-23	Fri	TL2.9. Utterances	TP Draft due
2018-11-28	Wed	(read assigned term project drafts)	Peer review
2018-11-30	Fri	TL2.10. The World in the Text	Course evaluations
2018-12-05	Wed	TL2.11. The Writer on the Spot and on the Line	Term project Final
2018-12-07	Fri	Course evaluations	Participation phase 2 end