

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication and Media Studies COMS 591, S01
Senior Seminar in Communication and Media
Topic: Web-Mediated Knowledge

Spring 2018

Tuesday, May 15 – Tuesday, June 26
Seminar: TR 9:00-11:45

Instructor: Dr. Monique Solomon
Office: SS 254
E-Mail: solomonm@ucalgary.ca
Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: Tuesday 1 pm to 3 pm or by appointment

Course Description

In this capstone seminar, Communication Studies students review, synthesize, and integrate the knowledge they have gained during their studies and apply this to a focused research topic. Through discussions, close reading of texts, and independent research students will apply their knowledge to investigate and analyze a topic of interest as it relates to the seminar topic. The topic for this seminar is “web-mediated knowledge”. The popularization of social and scientific knowledge in online platforms is re-shaping the way knowledge is defined, shared, and valued. In this seminar, students will examine and analyse how knowledge is constructed and presented via popular online platforms.

Additional Information

This is an inquiry-based seminar. Students play an active and generative role in presenting and developing their research ideas, participating in discussions, conducting independent research, and working as part of a group. The readings must be completed in advance of class. Success in the seminar requires making informed contributions during discussions and demonstrating critical engagement with the readings.

Objectives of the Course

- To provide students the opportunity to synthesize knowledge gained during their undergraduate studies and apply this to a topic of relevance to communication in contemporary society.
- To engage students to think critically in the practice of reviewing literature and applying theoretical and methodological perspectives to the analysis of communication.
- To provide students the opportunity to practice articulating research ideas and interests, and to practice critical research and writing in ways that will assist them in preparing for graduate level studies and professional work.

Textbooks and Readings

A list of required readings will be posted on D2L.

Internet and electronic communication device information

- Laptops may be used during class for course related work only.
- Cell phones, gaming and similar devices must be turned off during class.
- Laptops and all electronic devices must be closed during student presentations.
- No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without the explicit permission of the instructor.

Email

Include **COMS 591** in the subject line of all email sent to your professor. Include your name in the email as it appears in your university registration. All communication with your instructor and fellow students should be written in a courteous, professional manner.

Email is best used for short specific inquiries. If you have detailed questions about the course material or assignments, please speak with your instructor during office hours.

Email will be answered weekdays during regular working hours, and usually on a first-come, first-served basis. You can generally expect an answer within 24 hours, but email will not normally be answered in the evening or on weekends. Emails sent in the evening or on weekends will not be read or replied to until the next business day.

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignments * Details will be reviewed in class and posted on D2L.	Weight	Due
Participation Student participation will be evaluated based on writing responses, in-class activities, and student contributions during class discussion. Participation involves attentive listening, making informed thoughtful contributions during discussions, and demonstrating your familiarity with the required readings. Students who interrupt or distract classmates in seminar, or use e-devices in a distracting manner, will see an impact on their participation grade.	15%	Ongoing throughout term
Seminar Discussion/Presentation Small groups of students will be responsible for leading the seminar. Groups will present a required reading, show an online artifact, relate the reading to the artifact, and lead class discussion (Time: approx. 1 hour).	35%	To be scheduled May 29 to June 21
Research Essay (40%) Students will prepare a research essay on a topic of interest as it relates to the course theme (2000 - 2200 words). Class time will be allocated for drafting and developing your work. On May 31 and June 14, the progress of your draft and your participation during a review workshop will be graded.	5% 10% 25%	May 31 workshop June 14 workshop June 21 Due: Research Essay
Research Presentation This is an individual 7- to 9-minute presentation about your research essay. Presentations take place the final two classes.	10%	June 21 and/or June 26 Date(s) dependent on enrollment numbers.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

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

Submission of Assignments

Assignments for the course are due via uploads to D2L on the due date stated on the course outline, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. Please follow assignment instructions carefully. Please check the assignment instructions to see if a hard copy of the assignment is required.

As directed above, please hand in your assignments directly to your instructor. 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/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:

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. However, assignments, exams, and other work in the course are graded using a combination of letter grades and weighted raw scores for

each individual assignment. This is converted into a percentage and letter grade for the assignment. All assignments are then weighted based on the percentage value for the course and the scale below is used to calculate the final grade.

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 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>

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	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	<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 Ombudsman 	<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"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 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/counselling</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</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>

See the next page for the daily schedule

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

COMS 591 Spring 2018 Schedule		
<p>This is the anticipated schedule of topics. A list of required readings will be posted on D2L. Any changes to the schedule will be communicated via D2L and in class. It is a student's responsibility to check for D2L updates, and to ensure course emails are received at the correct email address.</p> <p>Note: Seminar Presentation (35%) and Participation (15%)</p>		
Week	Date	Topics and Assignments
Week 1	May 15 May 17	Course Introduction Foundations
Week 2	May 22 May 24	Popularization and Developments Genres and Characteristics
Week 3	May 29	Topic: Science <i>Seminar Presentation Group 1</i>
	May 31	Topic: Technology <i>Seminar Presentation Group 2</i> Workshop (5%)
Week 4	June 5	Topic: Education <i>Seminar Presentation Group 3</i>
	June 7	Topic: Entertainment <i>Seminar Presentation Group 4</i>
Week 5	June 12	Topic: Design <i>Seminar Presentation Group 5</i>
	June 14	Topic: Business <i>Seminar Presentation Group 6</i> Workshop (10%)
Week 6	June 19	Topic: Global Issues <i>Seminar Presentation Group 7</i>
	June 21	Topic: Future Interests DUE: Research Essay (25%) Upload to D2L Research Presentations may also be scheduled June 21 depending on enrollment numbers
Week 7	June 26	Research Presentations (10%)