

Department of Communication and Culture
Communication and Culture (CUSP and COMS) 613, S01
COMMUNICATION & CULTURAL THEORY
Winter 2013
Wednesday 13:00 - 15:50; SS 315

Instructor:

Maria Bakardjieva SS334 bakardji@ucalgary.ca 220-7300

Office hours by appointment.

Additional Information

Students are expected to attend all classes on all days of the course (attendance will be taken). Students should have reliable access to the Internet as well as valid UofC e-mail addresses. The course will involve regular use of Blackboard. All assignments should be submitted in paper copy AND as digital files through the Digital Dropbox in Blackboard. The visual slides of student presentations will be posted in the Blackboard Discussion Forum.

Course Description

This course is intended to provide an introduction to some of the central theoretical perspectives in the study of communication and culture. Students will be familiarized with the intellectual roots of various theories and will use theories to analyze and critically engage current issues. The goal is to provide students with the theoretical basis for carrying out their own thesis/dissertation research. The works of key theorists in traditions such as structuralism and poststructuralism, theories of meaning and discourse, critical theory, structuration theory, and theories relevant to the study of specific areas of communication and culture will represent the main focus.

The course will be organized as a seminar with brief lectures complemented by student presentations and class discussion. Students are expected to read the assigned readings for each week before class and be prepared to participate in active discussion of the material.

Requirements

Each student will be expected to:

- read all of the required readings
- take an active part in seminar discussions **10 %**
- give one seminar presentation and lead the class discussion of the assigned topic (approx. 60 min.) **30 %**
- respond to a classmate's seminar presentation and co-moderate the class discussion **15%**
- prepare a proposal for a research paper (due: **Feb. 27**) **required - no credit**
(2-3 pages typed, double spaced)
- prepare a research paper (due: **April 17**) **45 %**
(15-20 pages typed, double spaced; due by 4:30pm to

the Grad Office and submitted through the Digital Dropbox in Blackboard)

- give a 10 minute presentation of your paper (**April 3 & 10**) **required - no credit**
- respond to a classmate's presentation **required - no credit**

Total: **100 %**

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops may be used in class *only* for note-taking. iPods, cell phones and other electronic devices should only be used in case of emergency. Cell phones should be turned off or on 'silent' if you expect an urgent call.

Readings

Required readings will be made available through Blackboard, the Internet or library databases. Additional sources will be suggested by the instructor to individual students. Some texts may be provided in the Graduate Programs Office (SS 222) for photocopying.

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.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. You will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up any assignments or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. 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: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca

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. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This

includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (MacEwan Student Centre 4th floor, www.efwr.ucalgary.ca) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Grading System - The following grading system is used in the Faculty of Graduate Studies:

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(Revised, effective September 2008)

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Graduate Calendar at the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-o.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts, see www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/su

Graduate Students' Association

For details on the Graduate Students' Association, please see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/GSA/>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman, please see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/GSA/services/ombudsperson.html>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly Points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and assembly points, please see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (ie. surveys, interviews, observation) as a part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see:

Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board (CFREB)

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/cfreb>