

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Communication, Media and Film**

**COMMUNICATION STUDIES (COMS) 613 S01**  
**COMMUNICATION THEORY**

**WINTER 2020**

**Jan 14, 2020-Apr 14, 2020 (excluding February 18, 2020)**

**Tuesday 2:30PM - 5:15PM**

**The seminar sessions will take place via video-conferencing (Zoom)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Maria Bakardjieva  
**Office:** SS 224  
**Office Phone:** 403-220-7300  
**E-Mail:** bakardji@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** D2L available through MyUofC portal  
**Office Hours:** **By appointment via Zoom or Skype (m\_bakardjieva)**

### **Course Description**

This course introduces a range of major social-theoretical perspectives informing communication studies. Students will learn about the intellectual roots of various social theories and will use these theories to analyze and critically engage current issues. The contributions of key theorists such as Michel Foucault, Jurgen Habermas, members of the Frankfurt School, Karl Marx and others will be discussed. The goal is to provide students with the theoretical foundation for conceptualizing and carrying out their own thesis/dissertation research. The traditions to be covered include structuralism and poststructuralism, theories of meaning and discourse, structuration theory, the theory of communicative action, and a variety of critical theories relevant to the study of media and social communication.

The course will be organized as a seminar combining brief lectures with comprehensive student presentations and class discussion to be held by video-conferencing for the period of COVID-19 quarantine. Students are expected to read the assigned readings each week before class, post responses to the readings, and be prepared to participate in critical discussion of the material.

### **Textbooks and Readings**

Readings and links to readings will be posted online on the D2L site.

### **Internet and electronic communication device information**

The class uses D2L for all communication, assignment submission, access to readings, presentations and grades. The use of mobile phones in class is not acceptable except in cases of personal emergency. Laptops can be used for note-taking and reference only. Please refrain from keeping laptops open during discussions. Reading and posting on social media during class time is not allowed. Students are not permitted to audio-record lectures and class discussion or

take pictures during class. Statements and interaction during class time are a matter of group privacy and cannot be publicized.

### Assignments and Evaluation

Each student will be expected to:

- read all required readings and post a minimum of seven responses to the readings assigned for the respective week in the D2L discussion forum by 12 am on the day of the class 15%
  - take an active role in seminar discussions 15 %
  - give one seminar presentation (approx. 45 min.) and post presentation slides and notes in D2L 35 %
  - prepare a research paper proposal (due: February 27) (2-3 pages typed, double spaced) pass/fail
  - prepare a research paper (due: April 16) (15-20 pages typed, double spaced; due by 4:30 pm to Maria's Office) 35 %
  - upload your paper presentation slides (up to 6 slides presenting the paper structure and main argument in point form) on the D2L discussion board (5 points will be subtracted from final paper grade if fail) pass/fail
  - respond to a classmate's presentation (one peer responder will be assigned to each presentation) (5 points will be subtracted from final paper grade if fail) pass/fail
- Total: 100 %

**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:** Please submit your assignments electronically through D2L AND hand in a copy directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. 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 final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

**Note:** It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

### 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/](http://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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Please note:

1. Students seeking accommodations for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors directly. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.
2. 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.
3. 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>

### **Support Services**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

### **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 Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

### **Grading System**

Work in this course will be graded using letter grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Faculty of Graduate Studies:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4	Outstanding
A	4	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.
A-	3.7	Very good performance
B+	3.3	Good performance
B	3	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.3	All grades below "B-" are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.
C	2	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1	
F	0	

### 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> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor TFDL, <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 (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as 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

<https://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

## Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
<b>FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES</b>	<a href="http://grad.ucalgary.ca/home">http://grad.ucalgary.ca/home</a> or 403-220-4938
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Calgary Police Service</li><li>• Emergency Text Messaging</li><li>• Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</li><li>• Safewalk Program</li></ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> 403-220-5333 403-266-1234      Emergency: call 911 <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a> If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort ( <b>220-5333</b> ). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a>
<b>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IT help line</li></ul>	<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Writing Support Services</li><li>• Student Services Mobile App</li></ul>	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a>
<b>GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student Ombudsman</li></ul>	<a href="http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/">http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/</a> <a href="http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/ombudsperson">http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/ombudsperson</a> (403) 220-6420 or <a href="mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca">ombuds@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Faculty of Arts Reps</li></ul>	<a href="http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html">http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html</a>

<p><b>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Counselling Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Health Services</b></li> <li>• <b>Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</b></li> <li>• <b>Online resources and tips</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>403-210-9355</b> (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> <p><a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</a></p> <p><a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a></p> <p><b>403-266-HELP (4357)</b></p> <p><a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</a></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>
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### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

Enter information here or direct students to D2L if the information is posted there.