

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

W2017 - COMS 615 S01 - (Fall 2017)
Research Methods (Seminar)
Sep 11, 2017 - Dec 8, 2017
Mo 2:00PM - 4:45PM
SS 202

Instructor: Mél Hogan
Office: SS310
Office Phone: 220-3248
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Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4 pm, by email appointment

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the major research approaches used in the field of communication and media studies.

Objectives of the Course

- To examine major methodological traditions and research tools within communication and media studies.
- To examine connections between theories and research methods.
- To experience the data gathering and analysis process.
- To develop skill in writing effective research proposals.
- To understand the social context of the research process, including the practical, political, and ethical dimensions of research.

Textbooks and Readings

There is no textbook for this course. Required readings will be posted to D2L.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops are permitted for note taking only. iPods, cellphones and gaming devices may not be used at all during class. Please respect the instructor and your fellow students. Improper use of electronic devices will impact your participation grade.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Course components	Due
5%	Online Tutorial	Oct. 9
20%	Writing Assignment	Oct. 16
20%	Interview Assignment	Oct. 30
10%	Eubanks Assignment	Nov. 6
45%	Final Essay	Dec. 4

Assignments Overview:

Please note that for each assignment, you are expected to present your work in class and give others feedback. Your attendance on those days is required and counts for half the grade of the assignment.

Oct. 2 Online Ethics Tutorial (5%)

Fill out the online ethics tutorial: <http://tcps2core.ca/welcome> Create an account and complete the modules. It could take you up to 2 hours to complete. You can work in pairs, but you must each submit your named certificate to me via email.

Oct. 16 Writing Assignment (20%)

Find a passage - from a paragraph to a few pages - of an author's work that you really enjoy reading and that is related to your thesis or dissertation topic.

- 1) Note the elements that you like and write a few lines about what makes the passage "work"
- 2) How is the argument made or story told?
- 3) Write 1000 words related to your project, attempting to imitate this style. Do not use something you've already drafted - start completely fresh.
- 4) Reflect in class on how you were able to mimic the style. Consider the limitations as well. Come to class with your 1000 word text and notes about the process.
- 5) Review another student's work and provide feedback.

Oct. 30 Interview Assignment (20%)

You will interview someone related to your project. Make sure this is not someone you know well and are already comfortable with. You will transcribe 10 minutes of the interview and reflect on the process. Make sure you get ethics approval first.

Nov. 6 Eubanks (10%)

Attend and engage, or write a short reflection paper.

Dec. 4 Final Project: Respond to a CFP (45%)

You will write a 3000-4500 word essay in response a CFP (call for papers). You can use a current or passed call. Examples provided in class.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

You do not need to complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your essays 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. If specified in class, upload your assignments to D2L as well.

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>

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 & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film

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 Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents *	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations **
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%

2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	0-49.99%	0%

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, the 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.

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 (3rd 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 (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>

Students in this class are expected to go through the ethics process for their projects and get ethics approval from the Faculty Research Ethics Committee.

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

<p>Sept 11: Intro to syllabus</p> <p>Read "Concept" by Bal together in class</p>

Sept 18: Introduction to Research: Methods, Politics and Implications

Brief go-around addressing everyone's projects with a focus on methodological approaches.

READ

- "Qualitative Quality: Eight 'Big-Tent' Criteria for Excellent Qualitative Research." - Tracy
- "Research-Creation: Intervention, Analysis and "Family Resemblances"" - Chapman & Sawchuk

Sept 25: Decolonizing Methods

Discussion of methods – which, whose and why?

Complete online [tutorial](#). 10%

Send me your certificate by email by Oct 9.

READ

- "Chapter 1: Indigenous and Qualitative Inquiry: A Round Dance?" - Kovach
- "An Indigenous Feminist's Take On The Ontological Turn: 'Ontology' Is Just Another Word For Colonialism" - Todd

Oct 2: Writing as Mode in Inquiry and Creative Non Fiction

Ethics Presentation - Lauren McDougall and Janaki Jayanthan

READ

- "Writing as Method of Inquiry" - Richardson and St. Pierre

Oct 9

No Class

Oct 16: Interviews and Ethnography

Writing Assignment due

20%, 1000 words

READ

- "Confession, catharsis, or cure?" - Pillow
- "Methodological trajectory" - Leurs
- "Experiments in Pro Wrestling" - deGarris

Oct 23: Archives

*Archives visit

READ

- "Introduction" - Hill
- "Chapter 1: Archival Sedimentation" - Hill
- "Life Challenge Memory Work: Using Collaborative Autobiography to Understand Ourselves" - Lapadat et al.

Oct 30: Social Media Analysis

Interview Assignment due
20%

READ

- "The walkthrough method: An approach to the study of apps" - Light et al.
- "Thinking critically about and researching algorithms" - Kitchin
- "Instagrammatics and digital methods: studying visual social media, from selfies and GIFs to memes and emoji" - Highfield & Leaver (OPTIONAL)

Nov 6: Activism, Participatory Research / Technology and Social Justice

Guest Speaker: Virginia Eubanks

**if you can't make it to the talk, please submit a 500 word reflection on the reading. (10%)*

READ

- "Double-Bound: Putting the Power Back into Participatory Research" - Eubanks

Nov 13

No class

Nov 20: Reading Texts: Textual, Content and Critical Discourse Analysis**READ**

- Sage Handbook, various tbd

Nov 27

Individual Meetings

Dec 4

No class

Hand in your Final Project via D2L
40%, 3000-4500 words

