

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

W2017 - COMS 615 S01 - (Fall 2018)  
Research Methods (Seminar)  
Sep 6, 2018-Dec 7, 2018  
Tu 1:00PM - 3:45PM  
SS 202

**Instructor:** Dr. Hogan  
**Office:** SS310  
**Office Phone:** 220-3248  
**E-Mail:** mhogan@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** D2L available through MyUofC portal  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 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, cell phones 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**

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Course components</b>	<b>Due</b>
5%	Online Tutorial	Oct. 9
20%	Writing Assignment	Oct. 16
20%	Interview Assignment	Oct. 30
10%	Public Talk 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. Following the Ethics workshop on September 25, you will also fill out consent forms to be handed in with your final project.

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 one of your classmates about their thesis or dissertation. You will transcribe 10 minutes of the interview and reflect on the process. You will also be interviewed by one of your classmates.

Nov. 6 Public Talk (10%)

Attend and engage or write a short reflection paper.

Dec. 4 Final Project: (45%)

You will write a 3000-4500 outline of your research plan, including ethics and a breakdown of your approach.

**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/](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 <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	Very good performance	A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30	Good performance	B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Satisfactory performance	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies	B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30	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+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%

\* 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 (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 (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 . . .
<b>FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES</b> <b>CMF Graduate Programs Office</b>	ES 1010 403-220-4938 <a href="https://grad.ucalgary.ca/">https://grad.ucalgary.ca/</a> SS 222 403-220-5623 <a href="https://commfilm.ucalgary.ca/graduate">https://commfilm.ucalgary.ca/graduate</a>
<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> <b>403-220-5333</b> <b>403-266-1234</b> <b>Emergency: call 911</b> <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/desire2learn/home/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b>	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Writing Support Services</b></li> <li>● <b>Student Services Mobile App</b></li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a></p> <p><a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a></p>
<p><b>GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION CONTACTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Student Ombudsman</b></li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/">http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/</a></p> <p><a href="http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/ombudsperson">http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/ombudsperson</a></p> <p>(403) 220-6420 or <a href="mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca">ombuds@ucalgary.ca</a></p>
<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>