

University of Calgary
Department of Communication and Culture

COMS 501.54 L01
Research in Selected Topics
2014 Food Culture in Spain Group Study Program
May 11-May 31, 2014

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Course Description

COMS 501 is an individual directed study offered to students enrolled in the Food Culture in Spain 2014 Group Study Program. Students chose a topic of their choice and with the guidance and direction of one of the two accompanying instructors, conduct secondary and primary research to answer a research question on that topic.

Additional Information

This course is part of the Food Culture in Spain Group Study Program and is not offered on campus

Objectives of the Course

To give students an opportunity, under the supervision of one of the instructors, to explore in depth a food related topic of their choice through both experiential primary and scholarly secondary research.

For the essay, students will be required to submit a proposal and preliminary annotated bibliography for feedback and approval before departure. This major paper will be 4500-5000 words in length. Essays will be due three weeks after the end of the program.

Internet and electronic communication device information

N/A

Textbooks and Readings:

N/A

Assignments and Evaluation

Course Evaluation

Annotated Bibliography	(Due March 14)	15%
Preliminary Proposal	(Due March 14)	15%
In Field Progress Report	(Rolling deadline based on topic)	20%
Final Paper	(Due June 23)	50%

Assignment Descriptions

Preliminary Proposal

Students will submit a preliminary proposal of 350-450 words outlining their topic, research question, social/historical context, theoretical framework and research methods that will be undertaken in the field. Course based ethics approval will be obtained to allow students to undertake primary research in the field and the program assistant will be available to help students with translation if required.

Annotated Bibliography

Students will submit a properly formatted APA-style annotated bibliography of 8-10 scholarly sources on their topic. Each annotation should be approximately 3-5 sentences, and should provide a brief description of the book/article's main argument and the relevance of this source to the student's research.

In Field Progress Report

While in the field, students will be required to submit a two-page update on the research progress to date. This report should include a summary of data gathered, interviews scheduled, any shifts in research question, and challenges encountered to date. Deadlines for reports will be assigned in advance of departure based on the timing of students' data collection in the field.

Final Essay

Three weeks after the program's completion, students will submit a formal research essay of 4500-5000 words, worth 50% of their course grade for COMS 501. This essay will combine their primary research in the field with the scholarly sources collected pre-departure. Detailed essay guidelines will be provided to students outlining the theoretical and methodological expectations for the essay, and students will have regular meetings with their supervising instructor regarding the progress of their research. Final essays will be evaluated on the quality of primary and secondary research, strength of analysis, and clarity of writing.

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

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: 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.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

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. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment 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 (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://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: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

	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.

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 (3rd Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.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 Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) 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 <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points 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 (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

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:

<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:

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

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

N/A