

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

**Communications Studies COMS 501 L01
Research in Selected Topics**

Spring 2016

**2016 Food Culture in Spain Group Study Program
May 7-May 29, 2016**

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Office Hours: n/a (program takes place in Spain –
instructors will be available for student
consultation daily)

Course Description

COMS 501 is an individual directed study offered to students enrolled in the Food Culture in Spain 2016 Group Study Program. Students chose a topic relating to communication, media, or popular culture in Spain 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 only available to students enrolled in the 2016 Food Culture in Spain Group Study Program.

Objectives of the Course

This course gives students an opportunity to explore, in depth, an approved topic of their choice through experiential inquiry, in-field reports and meetings with an instructor, and traditional academic research.

Textbooks and Readings

There are no assigned readings for this course.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops and tablets will not normally be used during class time. If permission is granted to use them, they should be used exclusively for course purposes, with minimum distraction to other students.

Assignments and Evaluation

Annotated Bibliography	(Due March 17)	15%
Preliminary Proposal	(Due March 17)	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 400-500 words outlining their topic, research question, social/historical context, theoretical framework and research methods that will be undertaken in the field. Proposals should directly address the contextual background for your topic, as well as why the topic is appropriate for analysis in a COMS course.

Annotated Bibliography

Students will submit a properly formatted APA-style annotated bibliography of 6-8 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 the students will meet individually with their supervising instructor to present a written report on the progress of their research to date. The written report should speak directly to the original research proposal, commenting on research undertaken in Spain thus far, any changes in direction from the plan outlined in the proposal, any challenges encountered, and a detailed plan and timeline for the research remaining to be done. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the written report, as well as any questions or concerns that students may have about their project.

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.

*Please note that the default deadline for the 501 essay is June 23. If students are traveling on in Europe after the completion of the program, extensions of up to three weeks may be negotiated with the instructors – each student's deadline should be confirmed during the in-field progress report. No extension will go past July 14.

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 hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible, or submit via the D2L dropbox if instructed to do so.

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

Final grades are reported as letter grades. In this course, letter grades will be used for all assignments.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. In calculating final grades in this course, letter grades

will be converted to the midpoint of the percentage range, as shown in the final column of the table below.

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, then 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>

This course has received course-based ethics approval from the Faculty Research Ethics Committee. Students undertaking research (surveys or short interviews) with human participants are required to present their data gathering instruments to the instructor for approval in advance of collecting data.

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 	https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Ombudsman 	http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</p> <p>403-266-HELP (4357)</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthy-campus</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>

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

Posted on D2L.