

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

COMS 479 (L01): Feminist Media Studies

WINTER 2022: January 10 to April 12 (excluding February 20 - 26)

Lecture: MW 9:30AM – 10:45AM

Room: EDC 284

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR IN-PERSON COURSE DELIVERY

Note: This course will be delivered in-person. If you are unable to participate in-class owing to time differences or geographical location, please arrange to take this course in a future term

Instructor:	Dr. Jessalynn Keller (she/her/hers)
Office:	SS 304
Email:	Jessalynn.keller@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Mondays, 1PM – 3PM

Course Description

This course introduces students to the critical perspectives and practices of feminist studies of media cultures. As an interdisciplinary field, we will employ insights from cultural studies, film and television studies, women’s and gender studies, queer studies, disability studies, and critical race studies to interrogate the ways in which gendered, racialized and sexualized subjectivities are produced, circulated and consumed through (primarily) North American media cultures. A range of media texts, including television shows, films, music videos, ‘zines, selfies, and celebrities will be used as case studies to explore the relationship between power, media, and our identities. Additionally, the course will teach students to critically assess feminist media studies as a politicized practice, and students will reflect on the politics of doing feminist research in the field of media studies.

Additional Information

- The weekly schedule of topics and readings can be found at the end of this outline or on D2L.
- Students are responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline.
- This class is premised on the active participation of students. As such, regular attendance is expected and is essential for success in this course.
- During the course of the semester we will be discussing difficult topics, including sexual violence, racism, and other types of oppression. Please see the professor if you require assistance in dealing with this material.

Objectives of the Course

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the history of feminist media studies as an evolving scholarly field

- Articulate key theoretical and methodological frameworks for studying media cultures from a feminist perspective
- Analyze the ways in which gendered, racialized and sexualized subjectivities are produced, circulated and consumed through media cultures
- Interrogate the ways in which their own identities shape their engagement with media culture
- Develop both verbal and written analytic skills needed for advanced undergraduate study

Textbooks and Readings

There is one required reader for this course, available at the U of C bookstore and Amazon:
Harvey, Alison. 2019. *Feminist Media Studies*. Cambridge: Polity.

All other readings will be available on D2L.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to complete courses, University of Calgary students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates, with current antivirus software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection, and a current and updated web browser;
- A webcam (built-in or external), and a microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone (for online courses only).

If you need access to other software programs to complete assignments, your instructor will provide relevant information and links.

If you have technical difficulties, contact IT support services. See

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/student-campus-services-information-technologies-it.html>

Policy on the Use of Electronic Communication Devices

I encourage you to bring your laptop or tablet to lectures for note-taking purposes. Occasionally, you may be asked to use your device for an in-class exercise. However, students who are distracting their peers through the use of their computer/tablet/phone for purposes not related to class will be asked to leave.

****No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without the permission of the professor**** Please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on the recording of lectures, which is outlined at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>, and carefully review the section on Instructor Copyright at the end of this outline.

Email policy

Before emailing me, please check that the answer to your question is not in the course syllabus! I aim to answer all email inquiries as soon as possible, but will not reply to emails in the evening or over the weekend. When sending me an email, please specify what course you are in (COMS 479) and include a clear statement of purpose in the subject line. Always be professional and courteous in your emails to me and your teaching assistants. If you want to discuss an assignment or a concern about the course I prefer to meet in person during office hours, as these meetings are often more fruitful than a lengthy email exchange. I encourage you to use my office hours, and hope to meet many of you there throughout the semester.

Respect and Diversity in the Classroom

This course is built around student participation. Lecture periods often contain opportunity for student contributions and I welcome your insightful comments (based on course materials) and questions. During these discussion periods I ask that students be respectful of diverse viewpoints; however, racist, sexist, homophobic, Islamophobic, and other types of discriminatory comments are not permitted in the classroom. Comments of this nature will be dealt with at the professor's discretion on an individual basis.

On pronouns: I respect all students' pronouns. Please alert me to your pronoun and I am happy to oblige.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Assessed Components	Due
15%	"Exploring Feminist Media" Group Presentation: In groups of five, students will do a 10-minute presentation on an assigned feminist magazine, blog, podcast, or other type of media. Further information about this assignment will be provide on the first day of class.	As scheduled
15%	Quiz #1: Students will be tested on comprehension of key course concepts from both weeks 1-5 readings and lectures. Details: -online through D2L, open-book -quiz will be open for a 24-hour period, however it is recommended that students take the quiz during class time (there is no scheduled class on quiz days) -students will have 1-hour to complete the quiz (40 minutes, plus extra 20 contingency time as per university policy) -Primarily multiple choice, with the possibility of some short and/or long answer questions (exact format of quiz will be communicated two weeks in advance)	Wednesday February 9
20%	Quiz #2: Students will be tested on comprehension of key course concepts from both weeks 6-11 readings and lectures. Details: -online through D2L, open-book	Wednesday March 23

	<p>-quiz will be open for a 24-hour period, however it is recommended that students take the quiz during class time (there is no scheduled class on quiz days)</p> <p>-students will have 1-hour to complete the quiz (40 minutes, plus extra 20 contingency time as per university policy)</p> <p>-Primarily multiple choice, with the possibility of some short and/or long answer questions (exact format of quiz will be communicated two weeks in advance)</p>	
40%	<p>Making Feminist Media Project/Paper: For the final project, each student will produce a piece of feminist media and an accompanying reflection paper (5 pages). Students may choose to make: a blog/website, social media account, short film, podcast, art piece, 'zine, song, etc. The media created must engage with course content; students will have the opportunity to highlight the connections between their project and course content in the accompanying reflection paper. Each component (media and paper) is worth 20% each, for a total of 40% for the entire assignment. Both components of the assignment must be submitted together before the deadline. Further information on this assignment will be provided in class in January.</p>	Monday April 11
10%	<p>Participation: This course is discussion-based, with minimal lecturing from the professor. As such, it is imperative for students to come to class prepared having read the assigned readings. Participation grade will be based upon a student's contributions to class discussions, both in terms of quantity and quality. Missing too many classes (4 or more, which is 20% of the class) will negatively affect one's participation grade as it is impossible to contribute if you are not present! Accommodations will be made for illness, using the designated CMF accommodations coordinator.</p>	Ongoing

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Note: You must complete all assignments and exams or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments

Please submit all assignments to the designated D2L dropbox. Include your name and ID number on all assignments. Be sure to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to submit the proper version.

Private information related to individual students is treated with the utmost regard by University of Calgary faculty. Student assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty, and personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. Please note that instructors may use audio or video recording for lesson capture, assessment of student learning, and self-assessment of teaching practices.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of 5% or a partial letter 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); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. For the full policy on Student Accommodations, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require a medical note. For information on the use of a statutory declaration, see the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Expectations for Writing

Department policy directs that all written assignments and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses 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 and proper documentation of research sources. For further information, please refer to the *University of Calgary Calendar* section on writing across the curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

The following table outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. Final grades are reported as letter grades. For components graded using percentages or numerical scores, those values will be used directly in calculating the final course grade, while for components graded using letter grades, the letter grades will be converted to the midpoint values listed in the final column of the table below in calculating the final course grade.

In this course, letter grades will be used for the final project and group presentation. Percentage/numerical grades will be used for quizzes and participation grades.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations*
4.00	Outstanding performance	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent performance	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70	Approaching excellent performance	A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30	Exceeding good performance	B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good performance	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70	Approaching good performance	B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%

2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory performance	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance	C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	F	0 - 49.99%	0%

* Column 4: If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades. Column 5: 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. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

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.

For information on citation and documentation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago, IEEE, etc.), visit the Student Success Centre resource links at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support> or the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) Research and Citation Resources at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html

If you need help with your writing or have questions about citing sources, consult your instructor or visit the Student Success Centre, Taylor Family Digital Library. To book an appointment, go to <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>

Instructor Intellectual Property & Copyright Legislation

Course materials created by the instructor (including lectures, course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with

other students enrolled in the same course section and term may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

To ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes & electronic versions of textbooks), all students are required to read the *University of Calgary Policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright* at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and the requirements of the *Copyright Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>). Students who use material protected by copy-right in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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, including surveys, interviews, or observations as part of your university studies, you are responsible for obtaining research ethics approval and for following university research ethics guidelines. In some cases, your instructors may apply for course-based research ethics approval for certain assignments, and in those cases, they must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, please see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/arts-researchers/resources-researchers-and-instructors/ethics>

Deferrals of Course Work and Requests for Reappraisal

For university regulations and procedures related to deferral of term work, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

For information about deferrals of final examinations, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

For information about requesting a reappraisal of course work or of a final grade, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Student Support Services and Resources

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information about student support services and resources, including Wellness and Mental Health Resources, Student Success programs and services, the Student Ombuds Office, the Student Union, and Safewalk. For resources on D2L, Zoom, Yuja, etc., see <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/resources-for-students/>. (Find the topic menu under the icon to the left of the ELEARN banner.)

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

To be posted to D2L in early January.