

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
COMS 485 L01- Environmental Media and Communication
WINTER 2021: Jan 11 - April 15, 2021 (excluding Feb.14-20, April 02nd and 05th)
Lectures will be asynchronous, run on a weekly basis

IMPORTANT NOTE ON COURSE DELIVERY FOR WINTER 2021:

This Winter 2021 course will be offered entirely online as part of the University's plan to ensure everyone's safety during the Covid-19 pandemic. This class is entirely asynchronous. The class is structured by weekly topics, and organized so that students complete work each week.

Note that the time indicated on course outlines for all timed quizzes and exams in CMCL, COMS, and FILM courses includes 50% extra time to allow for technical difficulties.

Instructor:	Mél Hogan
Email:	mhogan@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Wednesday 9-11am (I will answer emails in real-time at this time)

Course Description

This class explores links between social media and news disinformation, existential risks, and climate disasters spurred by neoliberalism and settler extractive capitalism.

You will read academic articles, news articles, and popular media writing. You will look at documentaries and listen to podcasts, too. This class is organized according to weekly themes and concepts, and as we progress we will draw connections between key ideas. Some themes span two weeks because they require more attention than a week allows.

All slides are posted on the Monday of the week.

Additional Information

The weekly schedule of topics and readings can be found on D2L.

Each week you will read the slides for the 'lecture' component of the course. These slides will also provide you with instructions for that week.

Most weeks you will have articles to read, and there will be exercises and quizzes to complete. Most weeks you will have a short graded quiz on the readings/videos/podcasts (or anything leading up to that week).

The course is **asynchronous** but based on weekly progression. Each class has its own weekly theme. You can send me questions by email and I will answer them on D2L for others who might have similar inquiries.

Students are responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline.

Objectives of the Course

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

- learn key vocabulary and key concepts that pertain to environmental media and communication
- connect big ideas and think critically about media and technology in relation to climate catastrophes
- develop a critical understanding of facts vs opinions and the problems of disinformation as pertains to climate change
- understand the relationship between major political social movements, from Rachel Carson to BlackLivesMatter to Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Change
- work in groups and hand in high quality work on time
- read, cite, and annotate for research
- understand the work of other scholars and to build from existing questions

Textbooks and Readings

All readings are made available in D2L.

Learning Technologies and Requirements & Policy on the Use of Electronic Communication Devices

This is an online course. In order to complete online (or blended) 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;

If you have technical difficulties, contact the university's IT department. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/student-campus-services-information-technologies-it.html>

Instructors may arrange to record synchronous zoom class sessions for lesson capture; however, students are not to share recordings with others. Please carefully review the section on Instructor Copyright at the end of this outline.

Assignments and Evaluation

All slides are posted on the Monday of the week. All quizzes are open as of Monday of the week they are assigned, and due on Fridays, prior to 11:30pm (as indicated in D2L).

All readings and other media are available in D2L at the start of class.

Weight	Assessed Components	Due
20%	Participation in Discussion Forums. Each week there will be a set of questions for you to engage with. This grade will be accumulated weekly and inserted at the end of term -- the grade will be based on frequency and quality of your posts. Show me that you've read/watched/listened to the assigned texts.	Weekly/Cumulative

20% +2% if it gets published with AMRO	“Projections for the Future” Based on a call for multimedia projects (in any format), you will submit a response about the future. See D2L for details.	Jan 29, 2021 <i>*no late work accepted</i>
15%	Reading Group Report The work is done as a group and your report is submitted as a group. You can pick your group in D2L: <i>Groups > View Available Groups</i> . If by Week 3 you haven't chosen your group, D2L will automatically assign you. In groups of 2-3 people, please provide a reading report on your assigned text based on the template provided in D2L.	Week chosen/ Assigned
25%	Quizzes (5 x 5%) These are multiple choice quizzes (10-20 questions each) based on the readings and other media for that week, <i>or anything leading up to that week</i> . Each quiz is done on D2L, and can only be done once. It is graded automatically in D2L. You must complete the quiz <i>during the week it is assigned</i> -- as per the instructions and deadlines in D2L. You can take the quiz anytime during the week. It is not a timed quiz, and it shouldn't take you more than 30 minutes per quiz, if you've done the readings and have taken notes. You cannot make up for a missed quiz.	Weeks: (due on the Friday 1130pm) - 3-4 (Jan 25-Feb 5) - 5 (Feb 8-12) - 6 (Feb 22-26) - 7-8 (Mar 1-12) - 9 (Mar 15-19)
20%	Final Research Paper As per the detailed instructions in D2L, you will write a 1500 word final paper about a scholar/artist/activist working in Environmental Media. Upload it to D2L by the deadline in the format specified. This is a short piece meant to give you an opportunity to write about one new, evocative idea.	April 15, 2021

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Note: You do not have to complete all the assignments and exams in order to receive a passing grade in this course. If you miss a required course component, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Submission of Assignments

Please submit all assignments electronically by uploading them to the designated D2L dropbox (unless instructed otherwise in the assignment guidelines). Include your name and ID number on all assignments. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that you submit the proper version (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission).

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 recorded for lesson capture, assessment of student learning, and self-assessment of teaching practices.

Policy for Late Assignments

Quizzes must be taken the week that they are assigned and *cannot be retaken*. These will be graded automatically in D2L. If you miss a quiz, the grade for the week will be 0/5. Other 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. 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) or another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require that a medical note be presented. For the policy on supporting documentation the use of a statutory declaration, see Section M.1 of the *University Calendar*:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>. Also see FAQs for Students: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

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, you are graded based on the CMF rubric in D2L. Each quiz or assignment will be a percentage based on the total of 100%. Remember that each quiz is worth only 5% no matter how many questions are in the quiz. All grades will appear in D2L as soon as the assignment is graded.

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, please consult your instructor or visit the Student Success Centre, 3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library. To book an appointment, go to https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success?utm_source=ssc&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=redirect

Instructor Intellectual Property & Copyright Legislation

Course materials created by the instructor (including 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.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright 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 deferrals of exams and course work, requests for reappraisals, and other matters, please see the relevant sections in the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html>

Student Support Services and Resources

Please visit <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, visit <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students>. IT support is available at itsupport@ucalgary.ca or by calling 403-220.5555.

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

See D2L for a complete list of readings, podcasts and films.