

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

COMS 581 (L01): Senior Project in BCMS/BFS

SPRING 2023: May 3 – June 15 (excluding May 22)

Lecture: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:00 to 12:50pm

Lab: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:00-2:45pm

This is an in-person course held in SS 010.

Instructor:	Dr. Samantha Thrift (she/her)
Office:	SS 210
Email:	samantha.thrift@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 12:00-2:00pm (after class in-person; Zoom by appt)

Course Description

An advanced research and experiential project incorporating academic research and media production. The project will be produced in a medium appropriate to the student's specialization: print, radio, television, video, film or digital media.

Additional Information

This capstone course supports students' development of an independent research-based media project that is grounded in communication, media and/or film scholarship. This fast-paced, work-intensive spring course requires students undertake independent research, writing, and media-making. While substantial lab time is made available for these purposes, some course work may need to be completed outside of regularly scheduled class hours in order to meet submission deadlines. Late or incomplete assignments will compromise students' ability to succeed in the course. Please schedule your time accordingly.

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.

Respect and Diversity in the Classroom: This course is built around student participation. Our classes will often contain opportunity for student contributions and I welcome your insightful comments and questions. During these discussion periods, I ask that students be respectful of diverse viewpoints. Racist, sexist, trans-/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' choice of pronouns. Please alert me to your pronoun and I am happy to oblige.

Objectives of the Course

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

- Demonstrate mastery of foundational theoretical frameworks and concepts in communication, media and/or film studies, as pertaining to their keyword research project;

- Demonstrate strong research skills in the field of communication, media, and/or film studies, as part of the main project for the course;
- Demonstrate the ability to synthesize scholarly knowledge about the chosen keyword, and to express one's own understanding of that knowledge through the keyword entry assignment;
- Demonstrate strong academic written skills (ex. high proficiency in citation practice, integration of scholarly sources, etc.);
- Demonstrate critical and innovative thinking, as evidenced in the successful remediation of written work into a non-textual creative format;
- Show ability to translate complex project information into accessible, engaging terms to non-expert audiences;
- Collaborate and share constructive feedback about course projects with class members;
- Critically reflect on the experiential project and its impact on their learning experience.

Textbooks and Readings

No textbooks are assigned, however students will be required to conduct independent research and read scholarly materials for their research projects. Supplementary reading and/or screening materials will be posted to 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 synchronous 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

Laptops, tablets, and mobile phones may be used in class and labs only:

- for course-related purposes,
- if their use does not distract others, and
- if their use does not negatively impact the learning environment.

No audio or video recording is allowed in any class without the instructor's explicit permission.

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

When corresponding with the instructor via email, students should include the course name (COMS 581) in the subject line. If you do not include the course name in your email's subject line, your message may get overlooked in the instructor's inbox and go unread.

Please maintain a professional tone in your correspondence with the instructor.

Email is most useful for specific inquiries. If you have more detailed questions about the course material, assignments, or grades, please schedule an appointment to speak with the instructor during office hours. The instructor will respond to emails during the week, usually on a first-come, first-served basis. Emails sent in the evening or on weekends will not be read (or replied to) until the next working day.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Assessed Components	Due
15%	<p>Participation</p> <p>Progress Report 1: Submit 250-350 word research summary (May 11) Progress Report 2: Submit 4-pg draft of Keyword Entry (May 16) Progress Report 3: Submit 1-pg (notes) project status update (June 6)</p> <p>Each progress report consists of a written submission <u>and</u> active, in-class participation in small-group discussion of each other's work. Therefore, each progress report is worth a total of 5 points: 2.5 points (max.) for the written submission and 2.5 points (max.) for in-class participation in these discussion sessions. The written submissions due at 12pm to the D2L Dropbox.</p>	May 11; May 16; June 6 (all 12pm)
30%	<p>Keyword Entry: The Scholarly Summary</p> <p>A written, researched 1250-1500 word synopsis of a "keyword" in communication, media and/or film studies that is of interest to the student. Written in essay form, this summary description will address the term's meaning(s), histories, and usage within the discipline.</p> <p>The description may also address how the concept has informed contemporary social and/or political debates in media and society as well as scholarly critiques of the term. The keyword entry will also include application to a media example that helps illustrate its meaning and significance. The summary description must be supported by scholarly research (3 scholarly sources).</p>	May 18 (11:59pm)
10%	<p>Keyword: Creative Remediation Plan</p> <p>As part of remediating (i.e., transforming) your written keyword entry into a media (or multi-media) format, you will create a Remediation Plan that describes: the media format chosen, the target audience, a timeline to completion, and an project outline (or storyboard, if video based). Length: 250-500 words + timeline + outline/storyboard.</p>	May 30 (12pm)

	Submit to D2L Dropbox (12pm) and bring a copy to class for discussion.	
25%	Keyword: Creative Remediation Project Your written, researched keyword entry will be remediated (or, transformed) into a media (or multi-media) format that communicates the information in compelling terms to a non-expert audience. Examples of media formats are: a video essay, a podcast episode, an interactive game, a comic, a “newscast,” or <i>any other medium if you clear it with the instructor</i> . Get creative! More details provided in class.	June 13 (11:59pm)
10%	Keyword: Creative Remediation Showcase Students will use the classroom space to create a showcase of their individual creative projects. Each student will also prepare and deliver a 10-15-min talk about their keyword and its creative remediation. The presentations will be followed by a Q&A from classmates.	June 13 (in-class)
10%	Critical Reflection Students will be provided a series of (approx.) 12 project reflection prompts to provoke critical thinking about the keyword remediation project and its impact on their learning.	June 15 (11:59pm)

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

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

Submission of Assignments

Please submit all assignments by uploading them 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.

NOTE: Assignments submitted seven days or more (unexcused) late will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

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.

NOTE: Assignments and absences will not be excused due to travel and/or vacation plans, work obligations, or other scheduling conflicts.

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>

A.I. Policy

A.I. tools are to be treated like any other non-scholarly source with credibility issues, such as Wikipedia. Any ideas or wording from ChatGPT or other A.I. tool, must be cited as you would for other non-scholarly sources. When used, the full A.I. conversation must be saved and appended to the document.

A.I. Citation Resources (via University of Waterloo)

https://subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/chatgpt_generative_ai/aigeneratedcontentcitation

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 written assignments and media projects, while numerical scores will be used for participation grades (including the Concept Map assignment).

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, A.I. content generators, or visual media.

Students must adhere to the instructor's course policy regarding the use of A.I. generated content in course work. Unsanctioned use of A.I. generated content in course work may be reported as academic misconduct.

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 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 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 Meetings and Topics

Meeting schedule and topics will be posted to D2L in advance of the first day of classes.