

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
COMS 591 (S01): Capstone Seminar in Communication and Media Studies
FALL 2022: September 7 to December 7 (excluding Nov. 9)
Lecture: W 11:00 to 13:45

This course is in-person.

Instructor:	Maria Victoria Guglietti
Office:	SS 220
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Office Hours:	Friday 9:30-11:30 (Zoom or in person) or by appointment

Course Description

Explores the variety of ways in which communication builds social and cultural values with reference to a special topic. This session will be dedicated to art-based methods to study cultural and communication phenomena. Students are expected to complete an art-based research project in collaboration with engineering students registered in ENGG 521 Art and Engineering. Note that these two classes are independent.

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.

Objectives of the Course

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

- Design and conduct an art-based communication research project.
- Experience knowledge construction in communication studies through art-based practices.
- Successfully participate in trans-disciplinary collaboration.
- Critically reflect on each step of their independent research process.

Textbooks and Readings

Alvesson, M., & Sandberg, J. (2013). The context of constructing and formulating research questions. In *Constructing research questions: Doing interesting research* (pp. 10-23). SAGE <https://ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/login?url=https://methods-sagepub-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/book/constructing-research-questions/n2.xml>

Carpentier, N. (2021). Introduction: Arts-based research in communication and media studies. *Comunicazione Sociale*, 1, pp. 3-10 (**PDF on D2L**)

Cole, A. & Knowles, G. (2007). Arts-informed research. In A. Cole & G. Knowles (Eds.). *Handbook of the arts in qualitative research: Perspectives, methodologies, examples, and issues*. SAGE <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/reader.action?docID=1995726&ppg=76>

Reardon, D. F. (2006). The literature review. In *Doing your undergraduate project* (pp. 149-178). SAGE <https://ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/login?url=https://methods-sagepub-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/book/doing-your-undergraduate-project/n8.xml>

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

The use of smartphones or other electronic devices is strictly limited to activities connected with the class.

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.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Assessed Components	Due
30%	<p>Reflective research journal: individual- two submissions each worth 15%</p> <p>Students will complete a research journal where they will reflect on the process of designing and conducting an independent research project. Each submission will require the student's reflection on different aspects of their learning. A complete journal consists of the following six sections (approx. 350-500 words each):</p> <p>First part:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing a topic and a research question for an art-based research project 2. The chindogu as a method 	<p>First part due Oct. 7th by 11:59PM (D2L)</p> <p>Second part due Dec. 12th by 11:59PM (D2L)</p>

	<p>3. Working in a trans-disciplinary group</p> <p>Second part:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working on a design 2. Finalizing the project 3. Communicating the project <p>Further instructions will be posted on D2L.</p>	
15%	<p>Literature Review: group-based, approx. 4 members- written submission approx. 3000 words</p> <p>Communication students who are members of the same trans-disciplinary group will complete a literature review to situate their art-based project within the context of communication, media and cultural studies scholarship. The assignment will review a minimum of 15 academic sources.</p> <p>Group members will receive the same grade on assignments; however, the instructor reserves the right to award differential grades based on group peer reviews or information indicating significantly uneven contributions by group members.</p> <p>Further instructions will be posted on D2L.</p>	Oct. 28th by 11:59PM (D2L)
15%	<p>Project conceptualization and design: group-based, approx. 4 members - written submission approx. 1500-1800 words</p> <p>Communication students who are members of the same trans-disciplinary group will complete a research proposal outlining the project's rationale, how the project will answer the research question stated in the literature review, and the steps required for the completion of the art-based project.</p> <p>Further instructions will be posted on D2L</p>	Nov. 4 th by 11:59PM (D2L)
25%	<p>Research process documentation: individual- multimedia submission (a minimum of 10 images and 1200/1500 words; alternative formats must be discussed with the instructor).</p> <p>The goal of this assignment is to provide a comprehensive documentation of the process of conceptualization, design and completion of the art-based research project. Students will explain what steps were followed and how each step of the project (conceptualization, development and completion) informed the project. This multimedia report will also discuss unexpected changes and discoveries in the development of the project.</p> <p>Further instructions will be posted on D2L.</p>	Dec. 2 nd by 11:59PM (D2L)
15%	<p>Evaluation of artifact and process: individual- written submission (approx. 1200-1500 words- may include images)</p> <p>Finally, students will provide their own evaluation of their project: how does the project answer the research question? What are the strengths of the project in relation to more traditional methodological approaches to the topic? What are the limitations of the project? What could not be answered? What could have</p>	Dec. 9 th by 11:59PM (D2L)

	<p>been done better? What biases and assumptions informed the project? How does the trans-disciplinary collaboration shape the project?</p> <p>Further instructions will be posted on D2L.</p>	
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Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Note: You must complete the following course components in order to pass the course: art-based research project.

Submission of Assignments

Please submit all assignments, except for the final research art project which will be presented in class, 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 a partial letter grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. An assignment received two days after the deadline will receive an automatic 0.

***The Day of Grace:** One day of grace is available to all students to cover unforeseen problems that prevent them from meeting a deadline such as computer crashes, vehicle breakdowns, lack of printer ink or money, unexpected family obligations, etc. Students may use this day **ONLY ONCE** during the semester. **Students using this day of grace must upload the assignment by 4:30 pm the next calendar day** to avoid a late penalty and write "grace" on their subject line. It should be noted that assignments handed in this manner may be returned 1-2 classes later than those submitted on the due date.

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, final grades are reported as letter grades. All assignments will receive a percentage grade.

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 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 Lecture Topics and Readings

	Wednesdays 11:00AM- 1:45PM HNSC124A
Week 1 Sep. 7	<p>Lecture: Introduction to class, readings and assignments. The art-based research project</p> <p>Reading: Carpentier, N. (2021). Introduction: Arts-based research in communication and media studies. <i>Comunicazione Sociali</i>, 1, pp. 3-10 (PDF on D2L)</p> <p>Assignment: sign in for groups; warm-up exercise</p>
Week 2 Sep. 14	<p>Lecture: Researching communication and culture through art-based methods. Discussion of examples.</p> <p>Readings: Cole, A. & Knowles, G. (2007). Arts-informed research. In A. Cole & G. Knowles (Eds.). <i>Handbook of the arts in qualitative research: Perspectives, methodologies, examples, and issues</i>. SAGE https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/reader.action?docID=1995726&ppq=76</p>
Week 3 Sep. 21	<p>Lecture: Exploring a topic and method: the art of useless inventions (chindogu). Meeting ENGG 521 future collaborators.</p> <p>Assignment: forming transdisciplinary groups</p>
Week 4 Sep. 28	<p>Lecture: Establishing a RQ and goals.</p> <p>Reading: Alvesson, M., & Sandberg, J. (2013). The context of constructing and formulating research questions. In <i>Constructing research questions: Doing interesting research</i> (pp. 10-23). SAGE https://ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/login?url=https://methods-sagepub-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/book/constructing-research-questions/n2.xml</p> <p>Assignment: Development of potential RQs for final project- peer review process</p>
Week 5 Oct. 5	<p>Lecture: Conceptualization- Generating ideas with collaborators in ENGG 521</p> <p>Assignment: Journal First Part due Oct. 7th by 11:59PM¹</p>

¹ Note that deadlines are scheduled outside class time to accommodate last-minute changes.

Week 6 Oct. 12	<p>Lecture: Developing a literature review.</p> <p>Reading: Reardon, D. F. (2006). The literature review. In <i>Doing your undergraduate project</i> (pp. 149-178). SAGE https://ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/login?url=https://methods-sagepub-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/book/doing-your-undergraduate-project/n8.xml</p> <p>Assignment: Planning of lit. review.</p>
Week 7 Oct. 19	<p>Lecture: Developing a documentation plan. Exploration of examples; time dedicated to finalize literature review.</p>
Week 8 Oct. 26	<p>Lecture: Developing art-based project with collaborators from ENGG 521; time dedicated to finalize project conceptualization and design</p> <p>Assignment: Literature review due October 28th by 11:59PM (D2L)</p>
Week 9 Nov. 2	<p>Lecture: Developing art-based project with collaborators from ENGG 521</p> <p>Assignment: Project conceptualization and design due Nov. 4th by 11:59PM (D2L)</p>
Week 10 Nov. 9	TERM BREAK- NO CLASSES
Week 11 Nov. 16	<p>Lecture: Going back to the project with collaborators from ENGG 521</p> <p>Assignment: interim presentation of project for peer-review</p>
Week 12 Nov. 23	<p>Lecture: Lessons learned: Developing a strategy for analysis and evaluation</p>
Week 13 Nov. 30	<p>No Lecture: Q&A with instructor.</p> <p>Assignment: Research process documentation due Dec. 2 by 11:59PM (D2L)</p>
Week 14 Dec. 7	<p>FINAL PROJECT SHOWCASE COMS 591/ENGG 521</p> <p>Assignment: Evaluation of artifact and process due Dec. 9th by 11:59PM; Journal Second Part due Dec. 12th by 11:59PM</p>