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University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

COMS 717 (S01): *Environmental Media: TOTAL COLLAPSE*

FALL 2021: September 7 to December 9 (excluding Nov. 7-13)

Synchronous Zoom Lecture:
Tuesdays 14:00 to 16:45

The course has synchronous lectures on Zoom and other components in D2L

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IMPORTANT NOTE ON COURSE DELIVERY

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Asynchronous & Synchronous Course Components: Please read this outline carefully to see which course components will be offered synchronously (where you are expected to participate in person or online at the usual scheduled course time) and which components will be offered asynchronously (to be completed on your own time). Synchronous sessions hosted on Zoom can be accessed on D2L by clicking on the Communications tab and selecting Zoom.

Note: If you will not be able to participate in synchronous in-class or online class sessions owing to time differences or geographical location, then consult with the instructor to see if accommodation is possible or arrange to take this course in a future term.

Online Quizzes and Exams: You will be allowed a minimum window of 24 hours to access online quizzes and exams, but there may be a time limit for completing a quiz once you open it. Read the description carefully. The time specified for any timed online assessments includes 50% extra time.

Instructor:	Mél Hogan
Email:	mhogan@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	*by appointment, or Tuesdays after class (via Zoom)*

Course Description
In this graduate course on "Total Collapse", we focus on several severe threats to humanity, such as climate change, disinformation, AI / technological automation, and biowarfare. The idea is to confront the ways in which we imagine the end of the world (or ends of worlds) from myriad perspectives; as a collective, as individuals, as corporations, as Big Tech, as the wilderness, and as robots.

Additional Information
The weekly schedule of topics and readings can be found at the end of this outline or on D2L. This course is synchronous and online (via Zoom) with assignments and readings on D2L. Students are responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline.

Objectives of the Course
The course objectives are:
● To learn key vocabulary and key concepts that pertain to critical environmental media and communication theory
● To think critically about media and technology in relation to climate catastrophes
● To develop a critical understanding of facts vs opinions and the problems of disinformation as pertains to climate change

- To be able to lead a discussion on a topic related to environmental media and communication
- Read, cite, and annotate research that is pertinent to the field and make connections within a body of literature specific to media and communications studies
- Understand the work of other scholars and to build from existing questions

Textbooks and Readings

Recommended

The Precipice: Existential Risk And The Future Of Humanity
By Ord, Toby
Published By Hachette Books
Publication Date: Mar. 23, 2021

Optional

The New Breed: What Our History With Animals Reveals About Our Future With Robots
By Darling, Kate
Published By Holt & Company, Henry
Publication Date: Apr. 20, 2021

Ai In The Wild: Sustainability In The Age Of Artificial Intelligence
By Dauvergne, Peter
Published By Mit Press
Publication Date: Sep. 15, 2020

M Archive
By Alexis Pauline Gumbs
Published By Duke
Publication Date:

Atlas Of AI: Power, Politics, And The Planetary Costs Of Artificial Intelligence
By Kate Crawford
Published By Yale University Press
Publication Date: Apr. 6, 2021

Learning Technologies and Requirements
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;
- A webcam (built-in or external), and a microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone.

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

Because we are meeting on Zoom, I ask that you show up and turn on your camera as much as possible. There will be breaks and exercises during which time you can turn off the camera. Please feel free to use whatever devices you need to make your learning more enjoyable and with fewer distractions.

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

***For all written assignments, use Times New Roman, 12pts, double-spaced text with default margins. Upload your file to D2L as .doc or .docx.

Weight	Assessed Components	Due
20%	Lead a week's discussion: each student will lead one of the week's discussions based on the readings. Details in D2L.	Weekly
20%	Speculative writing exercise (in class): you will be asked to write a short piece during class zoom hours and share it during the class.	Oct 26
20%	Students will offer peer-review of other students' final writing projects: due to reviewers NOV 23/due back to authors NOV 30. Students must have 1800 word+ draft ready to share.	Nov 23 Nov 30
20%	Poster, postcards, video, or audio project related to the final paper for publication. Be prepared to share your projects in class (Zoom) on Dec 7. (Project 10% and Presentation 10%)	Dec 7
20%	Final paper for publication: 3000 words reflection on a topic related to course materials. This is a research paper that combines self-reflexive narrative with an in-depth understanding of important media studies concepts and scholars in the field. All papers must be clearly anchored in a concept explored in class. More details in D2L.	Dec 14

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No
If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will attempt to schedule the final exam in the evening, but there is no guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

Note: You do not have to complete all the assignments and exams in order to receive a passing grade in this course.

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.

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, percentages will be used for all assignments (each assignment is worth 20%). This percentage will be converted to a letter grade at the end of the course, based on the CMF scheme:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4	Outstanding
A	4	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.
A-	3.7	Very good performance
B+	3.3	Good performance

B	3	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.3	All grades below "B-" are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.

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/desire2learn/home/students. (Find the topic menu under the icon to the left of the ELEARN banner.)

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings
Weekly readings are posted on D2L.