

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Communication, Media and Film**

**Communication and Media Studies COMS 597 B01**  
**Film Studies FILM 597 B01**

**Honours Thesis**

**Winter 2019**

**January 10 – April 12, 2019**  
**Fridays, 2:00 – 2:50 (excluding Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

**Instructor:** Dr. S. Thrift  
**Office:** SS 210  
**Office Phone:** 403-220-5320  
**E-Mail:** [samantha.thrift@ucalgary.ca](mailto:samantha.thrift@ucalgary.ca)  
**Web Page:** D2L available through MyUofC portal  
**Office Hours:** Th 10-11:30 (or by appointment)

**Course Description**

Supervised individual research and preparation of an honours thesis. Incorporating material from the Communication and Media Studies 595 or Film Studies 595 paper to complete the honours thesis. This course may not be repeated for credit.

**Additional Information**

This course requires student participation in two components: seminar activities and independent research:

- 1) The 597 seminar provides a collegial and supportive environment for discussion of thesis-related skills and issues. Students will participate in seminar, present a poster on Honours Day (April, TBA), and participate in the Honours Showcase event (Jan. 25).
- 2) Students will also complete their independent research project under the supervision of a faculty member and co-direction of the honours program coordinator. At the end of this project, the student will submit a written thesis of approximately 40-50 pages (in addition to bibliography and appendices) and participate in an oral examination of the thesis by a committee of three faculty members including the thesis supervisor.

NOTE: FILM 595 or Communication and Media Studies 595 and admission to the Honours Program is required.

**Objectives of the Course**

- To conduct a senior undergraduate-level independent research project, culminating in an honours thesis and oral examination.
- To learn about various research methods, thesis research and writing processes, and thesis structures and styles through seminar activities and thesis-related assignments.
- To learn how to effectively present one's research in a thesis document, in oral presentation format, and in a poster presentation.

## **Textbooks and Readings**

No textbooks are required, however students will be required to read materials for their thesis and to review each other's drafts and presentations.

## **Internet and electronic communication device information**

Laptops may be used for purposes related to the course. Please do not use electronic devices during other students' presentations.

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

The thesis and oral exam must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** No

## **Submission of Assignments:**

- Sections of your thesis and progress reports will be submitted directly to your thesis supervisor either by email or in paper form, as directed by them.
- 597 seminar documents will be submitted via D2L using the following file name format: 597-Draft01-LastnameFirstname.docx

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at marked final exams in SS 320. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>

**Note:** It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

## **Policy for Late Assignments**

Late assignments may reflect on the quality of your thesis and your final thesis grade, at the discretion of your supervisor. Upon consultation with your thesis supervisor and the honours coordinator, you may reschedule your deadline dates to accommodate the phases of research and writing for your particular thesis.

## **Student Accommodations and Deferrals:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework 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 for 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, please see the following:

- Section N.1 of the *University Calendar*. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>
- FAQs for Students at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

Note that when accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to that of another assignment or test.

For information on deferrals, see the following sections in the *University Calendar*:

- Section G.7 Deferral of Term Work at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>
- Section G.6 Deferral of Final Exam at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

### **Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale**

The only grade you will receive is from your thesis supervisor after the completion of the thesis and oral exam. Your grade in this course will largely rest on the quality of the written thesis, but your thesis supervisor will also take into consideration:

1. The evaluations of your two other committee members
2. Your performance at the oral exam
3. Participation in (a) the seminar, (b) meetings with your supervisor
4. Ability to meet deadlines (with accommodations as necessary)

Final grades are reported as letter grades. The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
<b>4.00</b>	Outstanding performance	<b>A+</b>	96 - 100%	98.0%
<b>4.00</b>	Excellent performance	<b>A</b>	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
<b>3.70</b>	Approaching excellent performance	<b>A -</b>	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
<b>3.30</b>	Exceeding good performance	<b>B+</b>	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
<b>3.00</b>	Good performance	<b>B</b>	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
<b>2.70</b>	Approaching good performance	<b>B-</b>	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
<b>2.30</b>	Exceeding satisfactory performance	<b>C+</b>	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
<b>2.00</b>	Satisfactory performance	<b>C</b>	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
<b>1.70</b>	Approaching satisfactory performance	<b>C-</b>	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
<b>1.30</b>	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	<b>D+</b>	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
<b>1.00</b>	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	<b>D</b>	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
<b>0.00</b>	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	<b>F</b>	0 - 49.99%	0%

## Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will 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. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Student Success Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Taylor Family Digital Library). Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

## 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. 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. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436>. Research and citation resources are also available on the website of the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>. If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or visit the writing support services in the Student Success Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Taylor Family Digital Library, at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

## 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 (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

**Note:** If your thesis requires you to conduct any primary research involving human subjects (i.e., surveys, interviews, observations), OR to analyze data which is not publicly accessible without login or special permission from individuals or organizations (i.e., privacy-protected social media, or internal organizational documents), you must first obtain Faculty of Arts Research Ethics Committee approval.

- Do not recruit any participants or contact organizations until you obtain approval. Guidelines and forms are at: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics> under "Individual Student Research"

- First, complete the Government of Canada Tri-Council Agency online training program at <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/>
- By the October deadline, submit your ethics application to the Faculty of Arts Research Ethics Committee. Seek the guidance of your thesis supervisor and obtain their approval of your application. Include the Tri-Council certificate of completion in your application.
- After submitting the application to the Faculty of Arts, be prepared to submit revisions requested by the committee; the review may take several weeks to process.

### Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
<b>ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)</b>	SS 102 403-220-3580 <a href="mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca">artsads@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calgary Police Service</li> <li>• Emergency Text Messaging</li> <li>• Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</li> <li>• Safewalk Program</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> 403-220-5333 <b>403-266-1234      Emergency: call 911</b> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a> If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a>
<b>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT help line</li> </ul>	<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing Support Services</li> <li>• Student Services Mobile App</li> </ul>	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a>
<b>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Arts Reps</li> <li>• Student Ombudsman</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/">https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a>
<b>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling Services</li> <li>• Health Services</li> <li>• Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</li> <li>• Online resources and tips</li> </ul>	<b>403-210-9355</b> (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a> 403-266-HELP (4357) <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</a> If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-

being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.

### Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

Winter Meeting Dates	Activities & Lectures	Due Dates
Jan. 11	Progress Report Writing an analysis section.	Method (or other) chapter due <u>Jan. 8</u> . Progress report due <u>Jan. 18</u> .
Jan. 25	Honours Showcase event (2-3:30pm; SS 217)	Attend Honours Showcase. Prepare "elevator pitch" description of your project to present at Showcase.
Feb. 8	Progress Reports	Analysis (or other) chapter due <u>Feb. 8</u>
Mar. 8	Oral exam preparation Poster preparation	Introduction and/or Conclusion due <u>Mar. 8</u>
Mar. 22	Project Presentations	Full draft to supervisor, March 15-29
Apr. 22-26	Honours Day & Posters	Date TBA