



SOCI 401.57 - Advanced Topics in Sociology (Media & Society)			
Pre/Co-Requisites	SOCI 313		
Instructor:	Dr. Nazario Robles Bastida	Lecture Location:	SA 235
Phone:	(403) 220-6508	Lecture Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays 13:00 - 15:45 hrs.
Email:	nroblesb@ucalgary.ca	Office Hours	By appointment
Office:	SS 912		
Instructor Email Policy	Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line, and include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. Emails will be answered within two business day. I generally do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first.		

Course Description

Media texts are all around us. Broadcasted in Television, as memes on the Internet, wore as a t-shirt in the street. Media reaches every corner of Society, interacting with communities and individuals through a variety of messages and narratives. The complex interrelations between media and society constitute the object of study of this course. Employing a critical approach informed by Cultural Studies, Media and Society explores the many forms in which our understandings of gender, ethnicity, and other social phenomena, are informed and in turn inform the many mediascapes that characterize the contemporary world. By analyzing media such as cinema, television, videogames, animation and the Internet, as well as their respective audiences, this course intends to delve into the interconnections between modern subjectivity and the imagined worlds of mass and new media.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

1. Grasp the complex relationships between media representation and society.
2. Employ a critical approach to explore media texts and their depictions of gender, ethnicity, etc.
3. Understand the interrelationship between culture industries, audiences, and popular culture.
4. Develop an understanding of the interconnections between modern subjectivity and the imagined worlds of media.
5. Explore new forms of media and media technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

Itō, Okabe, Tsuji, Itō, Mizuko, Okabe, Daisuke, & Tsuji, Izumi. (2012). *Fandom unbound otaku culture in a connected world*. Yale University Press. (Online access – U of C Library Website)

REQUIREMENTS Learning Technologies and Requirements

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

You can find the schedule of lectures and readings in the “Reading Schedule” Outline located in D2L.

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES/DAY
D2L Discussions	10%	One per Week
Assignments (4)	20%	See Below
Presentation	20%	Chosen by student
Midterm Exam	20%	Monday, July 24th
Final Project	30%	Wednesday, August 9th
Total	100%	

D2L Discussions are group exercises designed to enhance the understanding of the topics discussed in class. They should be completed in the week when they are posted in D2L to provide the possibility of class discussions and involve students in the learning process. They will only be accepted at a later date if students have a valid reason for the delay in submitting them.

Assignments will be completed individually or in teams of two. They will evaluate students’ understanding of the readings and assigned papers. The dates when they are due are detailed below. Assignments not submitted on their due date will receive a penalty of ten percent off per day unless students receive an extension from the instructor. Students must provide a valid reason to obtain this extension.

Date	Activity
Wednesday June 28th	Assignment 1 is posted.
Wednesday July 5th (At 11:59 pm)	Assignment 1 is due.
Monday July 10th	Assignment 2 is posted.
Monday July 17th (At 11:59 pm)	Assignment 2 is due.
Monday July 24th	Assignment 3 is posted.
Monday July 31st (At 11:59 pm)	Assignment 3 is due.
Monday July 31st	Assignment 4 is posted.
Tuesday August 8th (At 11:59 pm)	Assignment 4 is due.

Presentations will be completed in teams of two. Each team will present to the class a reading of their choosing connected to topics discussed in the course (paper and topic should be previously discussed with the instructor). Details regarding the presentations can be found in the “Presentation Outline” in D2L.

The **midterm examination** will consist of short answer questions. It will be taken at class time and will have a duration of 1 hour and thirty minutes.

The **Final Project** will be a paper in which the students will present their analysis of one of the concepts, theories or social phenomena discussed in the course. More information regarding the final project can be found in the “Final Project Outline” in D2L.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Missed or Late Coursework

Grade items not submitted on their due date will receive a penalty of ten percent off per day unless students receive an extension from the instructor. Students must provide a valid reason to obtain this extension.

Technology Use

Please note that the use of laptops, tablets, cell phones or other electronic devices for entertainment purposes is NOT permitted during lectures.

Libraries & Cultural Resources

To contact your librarian or find out about the resources and services available to sociology students go to the Sociology Library guide: <https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/sociology>

To access the main Library website, go to: <https://library.ucalgary.ca>

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative

arrangements. A copy of that email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at: https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e->

[6.html](#).

Academic Accommodations:

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. 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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including 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 course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See 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> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including 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 course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives
Phone: 403-220-6551
Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Phone: 403-220-5997
Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.

