

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION & CULTURE  
Graduate Program in Communications Studies

**Communication and Culture (CUSP and COMS) 613, S01**  
**COMMUNICATION & CULTURAL THEORY**

Winter 2012

Wednesday 13:00 - 15:50; SS 315

**Instructor:**

Maria Bakardjieva SS334

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403-220-7300

Office hours by appointment.

**Course Description**

This course is intended to provide an introduction to some of the central theoretical perspectives in the studies of communication and culture. Students will be familiarized with the intellectual roots of various theories and will use theories to analyze and critically engage current issues. The goal is to provide students with the theoretical basis for carrying out their own thesis/dissertation research. The works of key theorists in traditions such as structuralism and poststructuralism, theories of meaning and discourse, critical theory, structuration theory, and theories relevant to the study of specific areas of communication and culture will represent the main focus.

The course will be organized as a seminar with brief lectures complemented by student presentations and class discussion. Students are expected to read the assigned readings for each week before class and be prepared to participate in active discussion of the material.

**Requirements**

Each student will be expected to:

- read all of the required readings
- take an active part in seminar discussions **10 %**
- give one seminar presentation (approx. 45 min.) **30 %**
- prepare a proposal for a research paper (due: **Feb. 29**) **required - no credit**  
(2-3 pages typed, double spaced)
- prepare a research paper (due: **April 18**) **55 %**  
(15-20 pages typed, double spaced; due by 4:30pm to the Grad Office and submitted through the Digital Dropbox in Blackboard)
- give a 10 minute presentation of your paper (**April 4 & 11**) **5%**
- respond to a classmate's presentation **required - no credit**

Total: **100 %**

## Readings

Required readings will be made available through Blackboard, the Internet or library databases. Additional sources will be suggested by the instructor to individual students. Some texts may be provided in the Graduate Programs Office (SS 222) for photocopying.

## Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

## Writing Skills Statement

Faculty policy directs that all written assignments will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see [www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/info](http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/info). Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: [www.efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca)

## Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Faculty of Communication and Culture:  
(Revised, effective September 2008)

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

## **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. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (SS 106, [efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://efwr.ucalgary.ca)) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

## **Students' Union**

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts, see [www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/su](http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/su)

## **Graduate Students' Association**

For details on the Graduate Students' Association, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/GSA/>

## **Student Ombudsman**

For details on the Student Ombudsman, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/GSA/services/ombudsperson.html>

## **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly Points**

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and assembly points, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

## **Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants (ie. Surveys, interviews, observation) as a part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board (CFREB)

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>