UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Spring 2021
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Sociology
Department of Sociology Website: https://soci.ucalgary.ca/

COURSE TITLE: Advanced Topics in Sociology: Media & Society			
Course Number	SOCI 401.57		
Pre/Co-Requisites	SOCI 201		
Instructor Name	Dr. Nazario Robles Bastida	**Email**	nroblesb@ucalgary.ca
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.		
Office Location	N/A	**Office Hours**	By appointment
Telephone No.	N/A		
TA Name		**TA Email**	
TA Office Location	N/A	**TA Office Hours**	
Class Dates	Mondays and Wednesdays		
Class Times	13:00-14:15		
Class Location	Online		

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.

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Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course will provide the students with the opportunity to:

1. Understand the central ideas of important theorist of media such as Theodor Adorno, Walter Benjamin, and Stuart Hall.
2. Grasp the complex relationships between media representation and society.
3. Employ a critical approach to explore media texts and its depictions of gender, ethnicity, etc.
4. Explore the interrelationship between culture industries, audiences and popular culture.
5. Develop an understanding of the interconnections between modern subjectivity and the imagined worlds of media.

Course Format

This course will have a Hybrid format. This means that it will require both synchronous and asynchronous involvement by students. In terms of synchronous involvement, we will have one-hour and fifteen minutes lecture sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 to 2:15 pm. These lectures will be recorded for those that cannot access them in real time. Lectures slides will be also posted on D2L. In terms of asynchronous involvement the course will include presentations, assignments and reading reports to be completed by students outside of lecture time. The due dates for these activities will be indicated over lecture and in D2L.

Learning Resources

Adorno, Theodor W. (1991). *The Culture Industry: Selected Essays on Mass Culture*. London: Routledge.

> (online access through the University of Calgary Library Website)

Benjamin, W., & Leslie, E. (2015). *On photography*. (online access – U of C Library Website)

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)

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).

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses 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;
*   A current and updated web browser;
*   Webcam (built-in or external);
*   Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
*   Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
*   Broadband internet connection.
Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

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

Assignments (Four)	20 %
Reading Reports (Three)	30 %
Presentation	20 %
Final Project (Friday, June 18th)	30 %

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 one point off per day (on a scale of ten) unless students receive an extension from the instructor. Students must provide a valid reason to obtain this extension.

Assignments Schedule SOCI 333

Date	Activity
Monday May 10th	Assignment 1 is posted.
Sunday May 16th (At 11:59pm)	Assignment 1 is due.
Monday May 17th	Assignment 2 is posted.
Wednesday May 26th (At 11:59pm)	Assignment 2 is due.
Monday June 7th	Assignment 3 is posted.
Sunday June 13th (At 11:59pm)	Assignment 3 is due.
Monday June 14th	Assignment 4 is posted.
Sunday June 20th (At 11:59pm)	Assignment 4 is due.

The **Reading Reports** will consist of short-answer questions related to the readings that we will do in this course. There will be three of them.

Reading Reports Schedule SOCI 333

Date	Activity
Wednesday May 12th	Reading Report 1 Posted after lecture.
Tuesday May 18th (At 11:59pm)	Reading Report 1 is due.
Wednesday May 19th	Reading Report 2 Posted after lecture.
Tuesday May 25th (At 11:59pm)	Reading Report 2 is due.

| Monday May 31st | Reading Report 3
Posted after lecture. |
| Sunday June 6th (At 11:59pm) | Reading Report 3 is due. |

Presentations will be assigned in teams of two or individually. Each student will present to the instructor through zoom a theoretical theme regarding the authors being discussed (previously discussed with the instructor). Details regarding the presentations can be found in the "Presentation Outline" in D2L.

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

Final Exam Information

This class will not have a final exam.

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.

Absences and Deferrals

Students who miss class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructor as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, the

instructor may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Deferred Final Exam Form: Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information can be found at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams

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/deferral-of-term-work-2020.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.

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.

2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the

course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect. When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/ .

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

The use of external chat groups is not forbidden but if created, these groups are still liable to the University of Calgary policy conduct. Students must maintain at all times civility and avoid any type of racist, sexist or any other type of discriminatory discourse. The instructor should be made aware of the group since its creation and the creator/moderator of the group has the responsibility of the chat groups and its content.

Media Recording
Media recording for lesson capture

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

Media recording for the assessment of student learning

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

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 subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf) and requirements of the Copyright Act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. 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.

Recording of Lectures

The audio or video recording of lectures and taking screengrabs of PowerPoint slides during the lecture are not permitted without explicit authorization. The non-authorized media recording of lectures is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and may result in discipline in accordance with the Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure.

Sharing of Lecture Notes and Exam Questions

Publicly sharing lectures notes and exam questions on 3rd party sites such as OneClass, StudyBlue, Quizlet, Course Hero, etc. is not permitted. If you wish to use these helpful studying tools, make sure

you adjust your privacy settings accordingly. Any violations are subject to investigation under the UofC Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:
http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

Academic Accommodation

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/. 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. Please refer to the policy on Student Accommodations. Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

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

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that 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 support 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 Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/).

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:
https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here: https://www.su.ucalgary.ca.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.