

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES

<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2020-2021 MLCS 410: Capstone Course

(B1 Winter)

Note: Remote delivery

Instructor: Russell Cobb

Time: 11:00-12:20TR

Office: Remote

Place: Remote

Telephone: 780-938-3183

Fax: 780-492-9106

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30-12:30

E-mail: rcobb@ualberta.ca

or by appointment

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

Course Prerequisite: MLCS 210

Technology requirements (minimum): You will need a computer, laptop or desktop. You will also need access to books and a word processor to type and submit written assignments. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved

Community Service Learning Component:

None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exams>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is a research practicum for students studying modern languages and cultures. This is not a course about a particular discipline or field of study; it is a course about “how” to do research. Our ultimate objective is to create a half hour podcast that questions conventional narratives of history, bringing marginalized voices to the fore, and debunking old myths. Students will be exposed to:

- Research methodologies in journalism and humanities
- The basics of research ethics
- Theoretical notions of “truth”
- Narrative plotting, story arcs, storyboarding
- Interview techniques
- Audio production basics on Hindenburg Journalist (free download available)

Objectives. Successful students will be able to do the following:

- Adopt a research methodology
- Understand the basics of research ethics
- Explain different notions of “Truth” (positivist, postmodern, postcolonial, etc.)
- Conduct an interview and mix it on a audio production platform
- Have a 30 minute podcast they can “pitch” to a radio station or podcasting media company

Texts (all required):

Everything posted on eClass

Meetings:

Tuesdays 11:00-12:20: Drop-in for individual or group sessions. Please check-in for at least 10 minutes biweekly.

**Zoom meeting link has been posted on e-class

Thursdays: 11:00-12:15: Synchronous discussion sessions. These sessions have required attendance via Zoom. If you can not attend, I require a note for an excused absence (see below for more information).

**Zoom meeting link has been posted on e-class

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: January 11, 2021
Add/Delete Date: January 22, 2021
50% Withdrawal Date: February 10, 2021
Winter Term Reading Week: February 16-19, 2021
Withdrawal Date: April 9, 2021
Last Day of Class: April 16, 2021
Final Exam Date (if applicable): *NONE*

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Term Work 100% No final exam

- Ten weekly assignments (50%)
- Presentation in groups (10%)
- Final draft of podcast (20%)
- Participation (20%)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Ten weekly assignments (50% total)

Roughly each week (excepting week one and last two weeks), students will have to complete an assignment by class time on Thursday. These assignments will serve as building blocks for the final project. Some assignments will be simple quizzes, some short writing assignments, and others might include fieldwork, annotating bibliographies, or formulating a research ethics application. Check your until module for details

Presentation (10%) For the presentation, students will present their final projects for 10 minutes.

Class Participation (20%)

This grade evaluates physical presence in class as well as engagement with discussion and lecture. For example, if you leave your screen black and never participate in chat, this grade will suffer. Students will evaluate their performance on the last day of class. “80% of life is showing up”

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (from the beginning of the Calendar).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor as soon as possible. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections **Attendance and Examinations** of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, attendance is evaluated by your presence in the classroom, your active participation in classroom discussions. Every absence after two unexcused absences results in a 10% reduction of the class participation segment of the course. Participation will also be assessed by preparation for discussion and will be self-assessed at the end of the course.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension once throughout the course with no penalty. **Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason. Assignments handed in late will be deducted 10% per each working day they are handed in late.** For example, if a paper is due at 9:30am on Tuesday, but you hand it in at 11:59pm on Thursday, that will incur a 20% deduction.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is:
<https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<p>Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations.</p> <p>Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.</p>	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
<p>Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p>	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
<p>Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
<p>Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-59

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