

COURSE DELIVERY GUIDE

COMS 491
Special Topics in Communications Studies

QUEER TIME

Dr. Bobby Benedicto
Thursday, 11:35 AM-2:25 PM

Note that the terms of this remote delivery plan are subject to modification as conditions change, in order to provide for flexibility and to optimize course delivery.

Seminar Meetings

This course is a reading and discussion-based seminar. We will be meeting weekly on Zoom (via MyCourses) on Thursdays from 11.35 am – 1.25 pm EST (2 hours). The professor will reserve the additional allotted hour for this course to meet and correspond separately with students who are unable to attend the regular meeting. This may be done in groups or individually depending on the number of students who will be unable to attend the regular session. All necessary accommodations will be made at the beginning of the semester.

To optimize our time during the regular seminar meeting, students will be asked to post reading responses on a dedicated discussion board in MyCourses in advance of each session. Students will also be asked to work in small groups to prepare and post short video, audio, or slide presentations that will serve as springboards for discussion. See Assessment section below.

Course Materials

All course readings, as well as required films or videos, will be made available online via MyCourses.

Discussion Guidelines

As a queer studies course, this seminar will necessarily address sensitive and controversial topics around gender and sexuality, as well as race. Given the nature of the topics we will be discussing in the course, students are expected to treat the opinions and experiences of others with the utmost respect. Debate and disagreement are welcome, but no offensive language will be tolerated. My aim will be to create an environment where students feel both safe and free to make mistakes. **In the interest of open discussion and privacy, seminar discussions will not be recorded (however, should the professor find it necessary to conduct mini-lectures for particular sessions, those will be recorded and posted on MyCourses).**

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Course Assessment and Feedback

Note: Detailed instructions, word counts, due dates, and relative weights for these assessment components will be made available in the official course syllabus.

Participation Students are expected to come to the virtual seminar meeting prepared to engage required course materials. We will make use of the 'raise hand' and chat functions on Zoom to facilitate discussion. For students who are unable to attend the seminar meetings for the duration of the course, this assessment component will be based on alternative meeting times arranged with the professor or other agreed-upon accommodations.

Reading Responses Students will be required to post 4 reading responses on a discussion board on MyCourses over the course of the semester. To provide flexibility, these can be on any 4 weeks during the term, though at least one should be posted by week 4. Responses should be posted by 12nn the day before the scheduled zoom meeting. Students are also encouraged to respond to each other's posts on the discussion board.

Group Seminar Presentation Students will be tasked to work in small groups to prepare a 10-minute (approx.) presentation on one set of assigned course readings (and/or film, if applicable). The presentation can be in the form of a video, audio, or slide presentation. The aim of the presentation will be to generate points for discussion by providing additional background on course materials and/or by situating them within broader intellectual, political, and social contexts. Presentations should be posted in advance on the MyCourses discussion board. Students unable to participate in the weekly meetings will likewise be asked to prepare a presentation to share with the rest of the class online.

Final Essay For the final essay, students will be asked to analyze a 'text' of their own choosing using concepts from the course. The 'text' can take the form of a film, a work of art, new media, literature, music, etc. This will be an opportunity for you to work on a topic that is of specific interest to you.

Essay Proposal Prior to the submission of the final essay, students will have the opportunity to workshop their ideas in small groups. An essay proposal containing an abstract, a mini annotated bibliography, and a discussion of the essay's theoretical framework will then be submitted to the professor for additional feedback.

Feedback for all assessments will be sent to students via email.

Contact information

If you have any questions and concerns regarding online delivery of the course, I can be reached via email at roberto.benedicto@mcgill.ca.