

MC9005—DOCTORAL COLLOQUIUM, SPRING 2025

M 4:00-4:50 pm, Annenberg 003

Dr. Geoffrey Baym

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Office Hours: by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The second semester of Colloquium provides a flexible space for us to continue the work of enculturation in the M&C program, and professional development in the field of Communication Studies.

Through a variety of sessions, we will continue to deal directly and specifically with the work and expectations of both graduate school and a post-graduate school career. We will continue to prepare for aspects of the graduate student experience and hone our habits of academic craftsmanship, while also exploring other aspects of the academic profession.

You are expected to attend class regularly and to be a lively and present participant. You are also expected to help create a collegial environment by contributing to one another's learning, but not losing sight of your own goals and development.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- a) To orient students to the expectations, practices, and routines of doctoral study, specifically the culture of the Media and Communication program in Klein College.
- b) To introduce students to the areas of research and aspects of the discipline pursued by faculty in the Klein College.
- c) To introduce students to professional issues as they prepare for academic careers.

ASSIGNMENTS

You will have four homework assignments through the semester. These are designed to help you develop skills, awareness, and self-understanding that are essential for your academic success. All written work must be double spaced, in 12-point font, and submitted via Canvas. Further details for all assignments will be provided in class.

1. Bio and headshot

Provide a professional-grade photograph and a short biography for the M&C website. Second-year students should update their bios from last year, and everyone's entry should adhere to the format found here: <https://klein.temple.edu/academics/graduate-programs/our-doctoral-students>

2. Peer review and revision plan for a course paper

Necessary skills for success in academia include a) the ability to read and thoughtfully critique someone else's work in progress; and b) the ability to respond to peer review of your own work. This two-part assignment requires you to do both. Working in partnership with a classmate, you will first provide a peer review of a course paper they wrote last semester. Here the goal is to provide useful feedback as to the strengths and weaknesses of the work. Second, you will draft a detailed plan for revision your own paper, based on the feedback from your classmate. That plan

should include a list of specific revisions you intend to undertake, a short bibliography (7-10 citations) of additional scholarship that could help you improve your argument, and venue (either a conference or a journal) that you will target for your revised paper.

3. Program proposal form

The program proposal is an administrative requirement of the Media and Communication doctoral program and is designed to assist students in planning for and completing a cohesive and appropriate set of courses, participating in appropriate research and related scholarly projects, preparing for and completing the dissertation, and planning for and achieving post-degree career goals. Drafting and updating this form annually is a core part of participation in the Ph.D. program, with changes and revisions reflecting changes to students' interests over the course of the semester.

GRADING

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|---------------------------------------|-----|
| • Bio and headshot: | 15% |
| • Peer review of a classmate's paper: | 25% |
| • Revision plan for your own paper: | 25% |
| • Program proposal: | 25% |
| • Attendance/participation: | 10% |

Final grades will be based on the following scale: A = 100-93; A- = 92.9-90; B+ = 89.9-87.0; B = 86.9-83; B- = 82.9-80; C+ = 79.9-77.0; C = 76.9-73; C- = 72.9-70; F = 69.9 and below.

What these grades mean: An *A* means your work is outstanding. *A* work goes above and beyond expectations and shows an astute intellect. *B* work is better than average and demonstrates excellent effort and satisfactory understanding of coursework. *B-* work meets expectations and demonstrates a general understanding of material and an average effort. Graduate school standards indicate that a *C* represents seriously flawed work. This might mean a misunderstanding of fundamental concepts, presenting them unacceptably in writing, and/or a lack of constructive participation in class discussion. Grades of *D* cannot be assigned in graduate course. A grade of *F* is a result of failure to adhere to policies of academic honesty.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All students are expected to know and abide by the Temple University Student Code of Conduct. In keeping with the code and general common sense, academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you commit plagiarism, at best you will fail the assignment, and at worst, you may be expelled from the university. Please refer to the statement at the end of this syllabus for further information about best practices to avoid plagiarism.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attending class and participating in the conversation are critical to your success. Attendance is required. Of course, with Covid continuing to circulate, if you feel unwell, have had a significant exposure event, or have tested positive for the virus, you should not come to campus or attend in-person classes or activities. Absences due to Covid concerns will be considered "excused."

Additionally, exceptions may be made for absences due to other serious medical conditions and family emergencies, provided notification is provided before hand, if at all possible, and official documentation of the emergency is submitted after the fact.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

It is our desire that all students fully participate in our curriculum, but we need your assistance. If you have a disability or condition that compromises your ability to complete the requirements of this course, you must notify Disability Resources and Services immediately and work with them to coordinate reasonable accommodations. Further, if you do not understand or accept the contents or the terms of this syllabus, you must notify the instructor in writing within the first week of class.

ACADEMIC RIGHTS/RESPONSIBILITIES

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. This course addresses issues and considers ideas that may be controversial or unpopular. We will not hide from hard questions and harsh language, but students and instructor alike are expected to remain sensitive to individual differences.

Temple University's policy #03.70.02 addresses students and faculty academic rights and responsibilities, and can be found through the "policies and procedures" tab on the TU Graduate School website.

SCHEDULE

This semester is flexible and open-ended. Here are some of the things we will (or may) do:

1. learn more about MCGSA and opportunities to be involved in the program
2. discuss best practices for your public profile
3. arrange the program for the Graduate Research Forum
4. discuss how to give successful academic talks
5. develop peer-reviewing skills and strategies for giving and receiving feedback
6. hear from mid-stream M&C students about forming committees, preparing for comps, and writing dissertation proposals
7. learn how to navigate the IRB process at Temple
8. attend public presentations of M&C students' dissertation projects
9. meet with M&C faculty about their current research projects