

MC9003—DOCTORAL COLLOQUIUM, FALL 2023

F 10:00-10:50am, Annenberg 301

Dr. Geoffrey Baym

Office: TT 218

Office Hours: F 11-12:30, and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a one-credit course that serves as a semi-formal space to make sense of the pursuit of a PhD, both in the Media and Communication program and in the field of Media and Communication Studies more generally. Beginning a Ph.D. program is an important first step toward starting an academic career, but often, students don't realize what they've gotten themselves into. Graduate school, the academy, and scholarly craftsmanship are all cultures unto themselves. This class is designed to help you find your place in these new worlds.

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 orient students to the expectations, practices, and habits of research and scholarly productivity.

READINGS

There are a few light readings for this class. All are listed on the schedule below, and are available on the course Canvas site, posted on the "modules" page. You are expected to read the materials *prior* to the date they appear under on the schedule, and to come to class prepared to discuss.

ASSIGNMENTS

You will have three homework assignments through the semester. These are designed to help you develop skills, awareness, and self-understanding that are essential for your academic success. Tentative dates are listed in the course calendar below. 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. Database research exercise

Using one of the communication research databases provided by the TU library, you will compile a bibliography of seven (7) peer-reviewed journal articles that address a topic of your choice. You will need to turn in a) a description of the database, your rationale for using it, and your search terms; and b) a bibliography in either APA or Chicago style.

2. M&C faculty profiles

This assignment requires you to learn about – and talk to – M&C faculty members beyond your advisor and those teaching your first-semester courses. You will write

one-page profiles of two (2) M&C faculty whose work is of interest to you. These profiles will be posted to the course Canvas site.

3. Mapping your disciplinary identity

At the end of the semester, you will write a three-page overview of your own disciplinary identity at this point in your graduate student career. You will need to a) provide an overview of the kinds of academic work you are pursuing, b) the journals where this work is published, and c) the conferences that other scholars who do this kind of work attend.

GRADING

- Data-base research exercise: 30%
- M&C faculty profiles: 30%
- Mapping your disciplinary identity: 30%
- 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.

CALENDAR (this is a rough draft – expect the schedule to change as the semester progresses)

9/1 Welcome to M&C

Read

- Dos and Don'ts for PhD School
- FAQs for M&C (from your friends in the MCGSA)

9/8 The first two years: Program expectations, advisors, and coursework

Read

- M&C Policies and Procedures: Overview
- M&C Policies and Procedures: Curricular Requirements

9/15 The long-term plan: Exams and the dissertation

Read

- M&C Policies and Procedures: Exams/Dissertation
- M&C Policies and Procedures: Timeline to Completion

9/22 Strategies for reading and writing

Read

- Mann, L. "Learning how to read theory"
- Ananny, M. "Tips for reading an academic paper"
- Sword, H. (2017). "Behavioral habits," in *Air & light & time & space: How successful academics write*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp. 11-56.

9/29 Strategies for research

- Special guest: Kristina De Voe, Communication Librarian, Charles Library

Assigned

- Homework 1: Database research exercise (*due 10/5*)

10/6 A wholistic approach to PhD study

Read

- Benchimol, E. & Keijzer, R. (2018). "Living like an academic athlete." *Gastroenterology* 14:8-14.
- Sword, H. (2017). "Introduction," in *Air & light & time & space: How successful academics write*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp. 1-10.

10/13 No class: University Wellness Day

10/20 Faculty in the Klein College

10/27 Faculty in the Klein College

Assigned

- Homework 2: M&C Faculty profiles (*due 11/2*)

11/3 Types of scholarly publications

11/10 Understanding peer review

Read

- Waisbord, S. (2016) Behind the curtain of editorial decisions. *Journal of Communication* 66: 207-210.

11/17 Conferences in the field

Assigned

- Homework 3: Placing yourself in the discipline (*due 11/30*)

11/24 No class: Fall Break

12/1 The program proposal

Read

- M&C Policies and Procedures: Program Proposal

12/8 Last day: *Ask me anything*