

ATCM 4332: CMS Lab – Public Humanities

Spring 2023

A syllabus is nothing more than a plan. And, as the recent past has made abundantly clear, even the most well-developed plans change. Be sure to work from the version on Box for the most up-to-date information.

Table of Contents

<i>Course Information</i>	2
<i>Instructor Information</i>	2
<i>The Place Where We Meet</i>	3
<i>Course Description</i>	4
<i>Course Goals</i>	5
<i>Required Texts and Materials</i>	5
<i>Recommended Texts and Materials</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
<i>Course Policies</i>	5
<i>Course Requirements and Grading</i>	9
<i>Schedule Outline</i>	10

Course Information

Credit Hours: 3

Degree Plan: Prescribed elective. If taken in the last two semesters, this class can count as your capstone.

Instructor Information

I am Dr. Kim Brillante Knight and my pronouns are she/her or they/them. I ask that students address me as Dr. Knight or Professor Knight in our interactions. In addition to serving as the instructor of this course, I am the Area Head of Critical Media Studies in ATEC.

I am also the project director for Fashioning Circuits, a Public Humanities project that engages wearable tech, domestic technologies, and computational craft. We meet weekly on Fridays and you are welcome to join us.

Ways to reach me

- Email: kim.knight@utdallas.edu
- MS Teams (text chat, voice, video)
- Office location: ATC 2.911

Dr. Knight's Office Hours

- Drop in Consultations Tuesdays, 3pm – 3:45pm, in office or via MS TEAMS
 - Quick questions or check-ins via one-on-one or group video/text chats.
 - For those using TEAMS, I'll post when I'm "open" on our class TEAM and you can sign up by commenting.
- By appointment Wednesdays, 3pm – 4:00pm, on MS Teams.
 - Individual meetings to discuss your progress in the class, the program, and so forth.
 - Book a 30-minute appointment at <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/DrKnightOfficeHourBookings@utdallas.edu/bookings/>
- If these days & times do not work for you, please email me with a request for an appointment and a list of days and times you are available. This option generally requires a few weeks' notice.

Dr. Knight's Contact policies:

- I generally respond to email and other messages once per day Monday through Friday.
 - If I do not respond after 2-3 weekdays, check my email address and re-send it. If it was on Teams, make sure you sent me a direct chat, or if it was in a group chat or a channel, be sure to "@ me. Sometimes email falls through the cracks and I welcome the reminder.

- Use official UTD email or MS Teams only. If you are asking me a question or telling me something on TEAMS, be sure to use the @ symbol and my name so that I receive a notification.

Teaching Assistant Information

The Teaching Assistant for this course is Nishanshi Shukla. Nishanshi (she/her) is a fourth-year PhD student at ATEC, currently writing her dissertation. Her research focuses on reasons and implications on implicit biases in Artificially Intelligent systems, with a special focus on the systems used in the Global South.

Ways to reach Nishanshi

- Email: nishanshi.shukla@utdallas.edu
- MS Teams (text chat, voice, video)

Nishanshi's Office Hours

- Drop in Consultations: Thursdays, 11am – 12pm, via MS TEAMS
 - Quick questions or check-ins via one-on-one or group video/text chats.
 - For those using TEAMS, Nishanshi will post when she is “open” on our class TEAM and you can sign up by commenting.
- By appointment: any weekday, scheduled via email, conducted via MS TEAMS
 - Individual meetings to discuss your progress in the class, the program, and so forth.
 - Email a week before you want to schedule a 30 minute appointment with preferred date and time slots (provide at least 3 options). You will receive a confirmation reply and calendar invite from Nishanshi. The meeting will be conducted virtually on MS Teams.

Nishanshi's Contact Policies:

- Use UTD email or MS Teams.
- When sending an email, mention the class name/ number in the subject (ideally: ATCM 4332: CMS Lab) for faster response. If you do not receive a response in 24-48 hours in weekdays, please resend it.
- When using MS TEAMS, either send a direct chat (please do not call without appointment,) or “@” Nishanshi in the course's TEAMS Channel.

The Place Where We Meet

In-person discussion sessions are scheduled in Room ATC 2.101 of the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building at UT Dallas.

UT Dallas stands on land originally settled and occupied by the Caddo, Wichita and Comanche people. We recognize the history of UT Dallas begins with the forced removal of the indigenous people through the legacy of colonization.

The historic Caddo people were the leaders of the Caddo Nation, an organized confederacy of at least 25 smaller tribes. The Caddo Confederacy was active until the 1800s and numbered 250,000 at the height of their existence. The Hasinai were among the 25 tribes of the Caddo Confederacy. Tejas is the Spanish spelling of Tayshas, the Hasinai word for those who are friends. The Caddo Confederacy was commonly known to the Spanish as "The Tejas". Texas is the English spelling of Tejas.

In 1855, the Caddo people were forcibly removed from the land they had originally settled and lived on for generations. They were relocated to the Brazos Indian Reservation, making room for the Peters colony. In 1859, they were again forcibly removed and relocated to the Washita River in Indian Territory in what is currently Caddo County, Oklahoma. The Caddo Nation of Oklahoma is a federally recognized tribe located in Binger, Oklahoma, which is made up of descendants of the historic Caddo tribes.

For more information about the indigenous peoples forced off this land by colonization, see <https://multicultural.utdallas.edu/about-us/>

Course Description

ATCM 4332, Critical Media Studies (CMS) Lab, functions as a simulation of professional environments in universities, cultural industries, and non-profits and is intended for students who have completed substantial coursework in media and technology studies. Students in the course collaborate to develop critically informed and socially engaged media projects in a variety of publicly-engaged academic and/or professional contexts.

In Spring 2023, Dr. Knight will lead the class in developing a public humanities project. The public humanities connect arts, humanities, and design work in the university with the publics in which the university is situated. Unlike a service-learning approach which sometimes centers on a deficit narrative and positions the university as addressing that deficit, the public humanities foregrounds that the University is part of the community and builds programs or initiatives based on relationships of mutuality and reciprocity.

For CMS Lab this year, students will work with a community partner to understand their needs or areas of interest and collaborate to develop a project that is mutually beneficial. This could take the form of workshops in art or media production, a collaborative art installation, or something we have not even thought of yet!

Course Goals

In this course, students will:

- Produce critical creative work in digital media in partnership with a community org;
- Effectively develop and communicate project criteria, merit, and relevance to community partners and the public;
- Develop skills in using primary and secondary sources, and in presenting ideas and stories in written, verbal, and digital form;
- Demonstrate the ability to work in a collaborative setting;
- Explore the ethical and social dimensions of media and be able to apply that knowledge in the creation and analysis of digital media texts.

Required Texts and Materials

- Various articles and chapters, available online via Box, UTD e-reserves, or the internet.

You will also need the following:

- a UTD email account (that you check at least once per day during the week)
- MS Teams on a desktop/laptop or a mobile device
- A UTD Box account <http://utdallas.app.box.com>

Course Policies

Attendance

There are no required class meetings for this course. Instead, one of the course grades stems from “engagement,” including how you engage with course materials and class media, assignments, me, and one another. For more information, see the Engagement assignment sheet.

Accommodation

If you have a disability that requires accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act -2008(ADAAA), please present your letter of accommodations from the Office of Student AccessAbility and meet with me as soon as possible so that I can support your success in an informed manner. If you would like to know more about the University of Texas at Dallas, Office of Student AccessAbility, please contact the office at 972-883-6104 or email: studentaccessability@utdallas.edu. Their office is located in the Student Service Building (SSB), suite 3.200. All discussions with them are confidential.

If you learn a bit differently but do not qualify for, or have the resources to seek, an accommodation, there are still ways I can support your success. Be sure to let me know so we can creatively approach your experience in this class.

Online Due Dates

Presentations are given during class meetings. Otherwise, work in this class is turned in online. Annotations are due before class begins at 1pm. Other assignments should be turned in no later than 11:59pm on the date listed, unless otherwise noted. My preference is that you convert documents to .pdf before turning them in.

Late work

Due dates have been set to help scaffold your coursework in a manageable way, and so that I can plan time to give you feedback. You should make an effort to turn in work on-time, in the format outlined on the assignment sheets. If you need an extension on something, you can use freebies (one per day) to turn in assignments late with no effect on the grade. If you are out of freebies and need an extension, talk to me about it. If you are communicating with me, I will be flexible if circumstances allow.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty, i.e. plagiarism and other forms of cheating, will be reported to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students office will investigate the claim, interview any students involved, and determine an outcome. Possible disciplinary action by the university may include failing the assignment, failing the course, expulsion, etc. If you have any questions regarding the proper use of outside sources or the distinction between plagiarism and sampling/remix/adaptation, I encourage you to meet with me.

Names and Pronouns

Many people might go by a name in daily life that is different from their legal name. In this class, we seek to refer to people by the names that they go by. Pronouns can be a way to affirm someone's gender identity, but they can also be unrelated to a person's identity. They are simply a public way in which people are referred to in place of their name (e.g. "he" or "she" or "they" or "ze" or something else). In this classroom, you are invited (if you want to) to share what pronouns you go by, and we seek to refer to people using the pronouns that they share. The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity.

Online Identity

This class may ask students to participate in various forms of public writing. Writing in public has several advantages for student learning. It creates a closer analogue to offline environments and allows for the creation of writing that is designed to be shared with an external audience, instead of only an instructor. It also allows students to learn from each other. However, some students may have legitimate privacy concerns about participating in publicly accessible assignments. These students may choose to participate in public assignments under a pseudonym, or assumed name. If you wish to request this accommodation for any reason, please contact me immediately.

The Classroom Community and Your Well-being

Our many discussions and online assignments will require vigilance to ensure that we are always preserving an atmosphere of mutual respect in which everyone is welcome to learn. Disagreements may arise and consensus may not be possible. We can, however, respect each person's right to express ideas and right to have the opportunity to learn. However, one's "right to expression" does not include language or behavior that is harmful to others. Name calling, harassment, or menacing behavior will not be tolerated.

Classroom Conduct Requirements Related to Public Health Measures

UT Dallas will follow the public health and safety guidelines put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and local public health agencies that are in effect at that time during the semester to the extent allowed by state governance. Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order [GA-38](#) prohibits us from mandating vaccines and face coverings for UT Dallas employees, students, and members of the public on campus. **However, we strongly encourage all Comets to get vaccinated and wear face coverings as recommended by the CDC.**

A note from the instructor on masks: In my experience, the best learning happens when we can all be in a room together. To facilitate that, I will wear a mask for every single one of our class meetings. This is partly to protect myself, to protect my loved ones, and to protect you. I am an award-winning instructor and you deserve my full attention in teaching this class. If I feel unsafe, or am worried about you infecting one-another, you will not get the best classroom experience that I can offer you.

So, I will wear an N95/KN95/KF94 mask, every class meeting, for the entire time. As a courtesy to your fellow students and me, I would appreciate it if you do the same. The only way we will stay safe and get to have an entire semester of in-person classes is if everyone is doing their part to battle this ongoing public health emergency.

Course Recordings

I may record meetings, or partial meetings, of this course, typically when we are going over assignment instructions and the like. Our typical class meetings to discuss readings or viewings will not be recorded as there exists a comparable asynchronous option for engagement.

Any recordings will be captioned and made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. You are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved a student to record the instruction, you are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such

use unless an exception is allowed by law. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

University Policies

Please visit <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for the University's policies regarding all courses.

Course Requirements and Grading

Grading Scale

See the Assignment Instructions folder on Box for assignment-specific grading criteria.

EVALUATION	LETTER GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Excellent	A, A-	Work that is thought-provoking, novel, and well-crafted. The work extends our thinking into new territory. The form and content enhance one another.
Good	B+, B, B-	Work that is thought-provoking or novel, and well-crafted. The work extends our thinking, or wades into new territory. The form enhances the content.
Fair	C+, C, C-	Work that is well-crafted. The form connects to the content.
Needs Improvement	D+, D, D-	Work that needs substantial improvement.
Failing	F	Work that is never turned in, off-topic, or out of alignment with the minimal requirements for the assignment or course.

Assignments

All assignments are weighted equally in determining your final course grade. See the Assignment Instructions folder on Box for more details.

Engagement

Preparation and presence, which include focus, asking questions, and specificity. This includes weekly preparatory homework like reading annotations, informal presentations, short proposals, and so forth.

Collaboration on a Public Humanities Project

You will collaborate with your peers to work on a project in partnership with a TBD community organization or non-profit. The nature and scope of this project will be determined before mid-term. Each person will have clearly defined roles and responsibilities. The collaboration assignment will likely include some kind of production journal or weekly summary of activities.

Final Reflection

We will end the semester reflecting on your understanding of public humanities. The medium is up to your discretion. For example, you could make a short paper, video essay, manifesto, infographic, or something else entirely. Guidelines for this assignment will be available after Spring Break.

Freebies

Each student starts the semester with three “freebies.” Freebies can be used to miss the class meeting, skip engagement activities (with the exception of journal/check-in during the production unit), or as grace days to turn in the final reflection late. If you miss an engagement activity or turn in the final assignment late, I will automatically apply any remaining freebies unless you write to me to ask to save them.

Assessment

You can expect a middle-of-the-term evaluation on Engagement. Other assignments will be evaluated as soon as I can after they are initially turned in. Please note that my administrative responsibilities sometimes mean it can be several weeks before you receive feedback. Thank you in advance for your patience.

Schedule Outline

During the production period, topical readings will be assigned once the nature of the collaborative project is determined.

Week 1: January 17 Introduction

Week 2: January 24 Self-Evaluation and Evaluation of Potential Community Partners

Week 3: January 31 Doing Community Based Work

Week 4: February 7 The Political Economy of Non-Profits

Week 5: February 14 Partner Short List Interviews

Week 6: February 21 Partnership Proposals

Week 7: February 28 Partnership Agreement

Week 8: March 7 Production

Spring Break: March 13 – 17

Week 9: March 21 Production

Week 10: March 28 Production

Week 11: April 4 Production

Week 12: April 11 Production

Week 13: April 18 Production

Week 14: April 25 Wrap Up Production

Week 15: May 2 Present Final Reflections