

FALL 2020

CRITICAL METHODS

COM 7325 | CRN: 87785

WED 5:15 PM - 8:00 PM

CIS 3057

The course looks at how we do critical research in communication, with a focus on asking critical questions and developing critical methods to answer these questions. We will closely examine how a few scholars do this type of scholarship and take a hands-on approach: class time will be devoted to workshopping student projects.

Critical scholarship is political and active, foregrounding theory as a means of meaningful intervention, and it is committed to seeing each issue as both situated and contextual, as well as connected to larger structures. Broadly speaking, this type of work focuses on questions of equity, disenfranchisement and power, challenging that which is seen to produce objectionable power relations. A critical approach asks us to interrogate how knowledge is produced and be attentive to the implications of the work we do. Part of the task of critical scholarship is to challenge underlying assumptions, and make these visible, including assumptions in our own research methods, theories and praxis.

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