Department of Communication
Spring 2024 Graduate Course Descriptions
COM 7325: Qualitative Methods
Dr. Mariaelena Bartesaghi
In this course, you will experience, reflect on, and critically interrogate a set of naturalistic research
approaches within the interpretive paradigm. We will spend particular attention to ethnographic inquiry
(participant/observation and interviews). Our time in class will be spent weaving the following three
strands of inquiry: (1) practical and analytic issues in the doing of naturalistic research, (2) ongoing data
collection and analysis, and (3) the ontologies of “data”, “field,” “themes,” “methods” and so on. We will
also pay careful attention to writing as social praxis, from field notes, to transcription, to analysis and
elaboration of theoretical claims.
My goal for this course is to challenge you to a closer and sharper awareness of what we do by doing
research and more compelling theorizing of and in communication. In workshops we will exchange
ideas, hone our skills, and learn from each other.
SPC 6934: Communication and Identity
Dr. Keith Berry
This course explores the communicative nature of “identities.” The symbolic ways in which identities
shape how people communicate, and, in turn, the ways people creatively co-constitute, or make and
remake, identities within communication, will be of particular interest. We’ll primarily assume a
qualitative and interpretive orientation to this area of study, one that will also allow (call) us to
circumspectly explore how this orientation is actually related, and often has served as a response to,
other orientations. Also, we’ll assume that questions on culture and cultural identities dwell at the heart

Dr. Diana Leon-Boys
Through a Feminist Media Studies lens, Latinxs and Popular Culture pursues an intersectional and
transnational study of the history, production, representation, audience, and interpretation of Latinx
popular culture. This interdisciplinary course sets out to answer some of the following questions: How
do Latinxs construct identity (and have their identities constructed for them) via popular culture? How
can we best understand the complex relationship between producer, consumer, and media text? How
are Latinx stereotypes constructed, circulated, and contested in popular culture? In what ways does
popular culture impact our understanding of ethnoracial identity, gender, sexuality, class, language,
citizenship, and nation? To answer these questions, we will analyze contemporary material and view
contemporary media.
SPC 6934: Communication, Technology, and Society
Dr. Jianing Li