



COM 4931

Reality TV



This course examines the contemporary reality TV (RTV) genre. We will investigate why RTV has become popular at this point in time and what it can tell us about our culture. The aim of the course is to become political and active about problems in our society by seeking to understand these through the use of critical thinking. Many of the issues we look at have to do with inequality, oppression and disenfranchisement, such as racism and sexism in the context of surveillance (participants on the shows are usually under 24/7 surveillance).

Rachel Dubrofsky





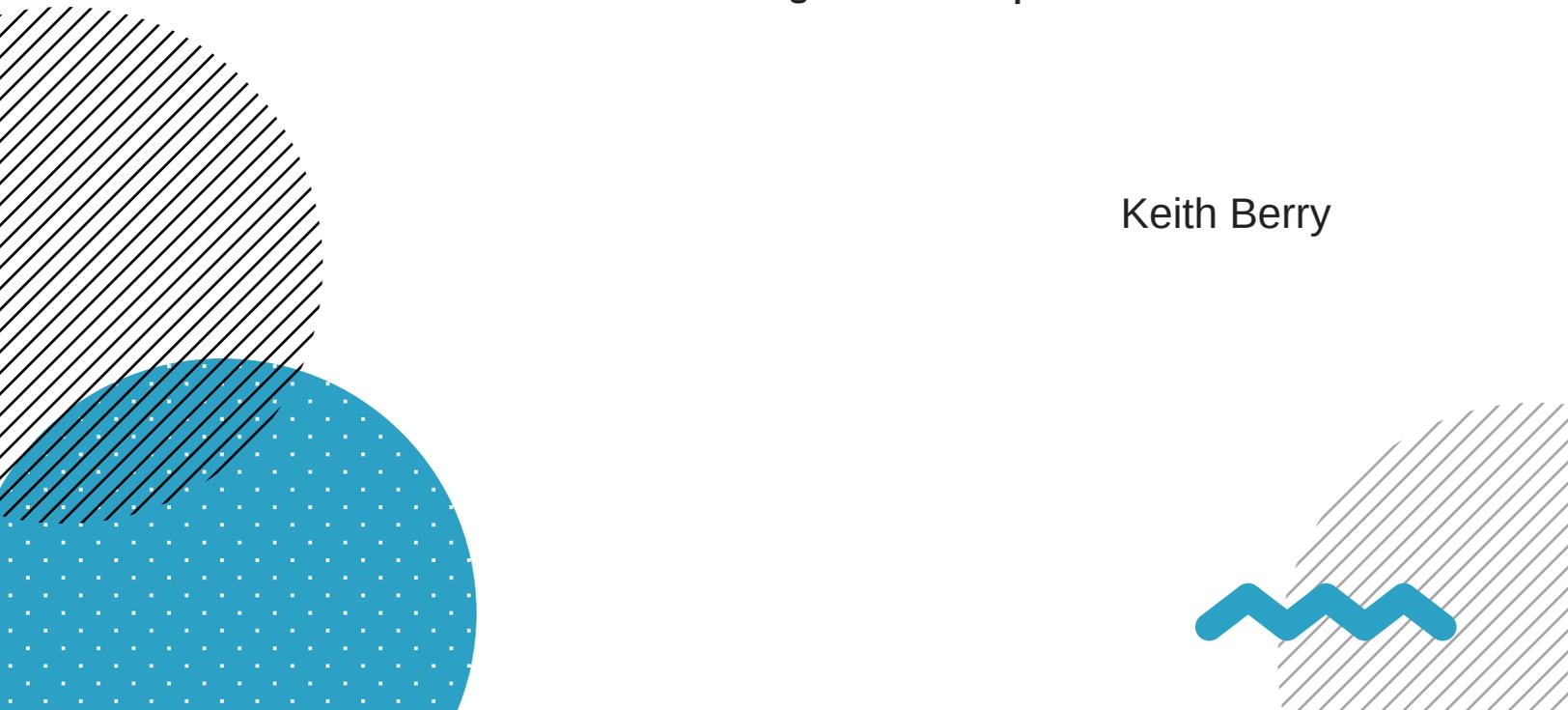
SPC 4930

Communication & Mindfulness



This special topics course entails an in-depth study of “mindfulness” as it relates to relational communication. We’ll survey a number of Eastern and Western approaches to mindfulness to better understand the ways in which communicators perform mindfully and mindlessly across an array of communication contexts (e.g., friendships, romantic relationships, work relationships), and the consequences of these performances. In addition, we’ll explore how mindfulness informs and may improve upon the social interactions and relationships comprising our relational and cultural lives. No previous coursework in mindfulness is required to do well in this course. However, all students will be asked to use, practice, and reflect on mindfulness techniques, and, therefore, should have a definite interest in learning about this topic.

Keith Berry



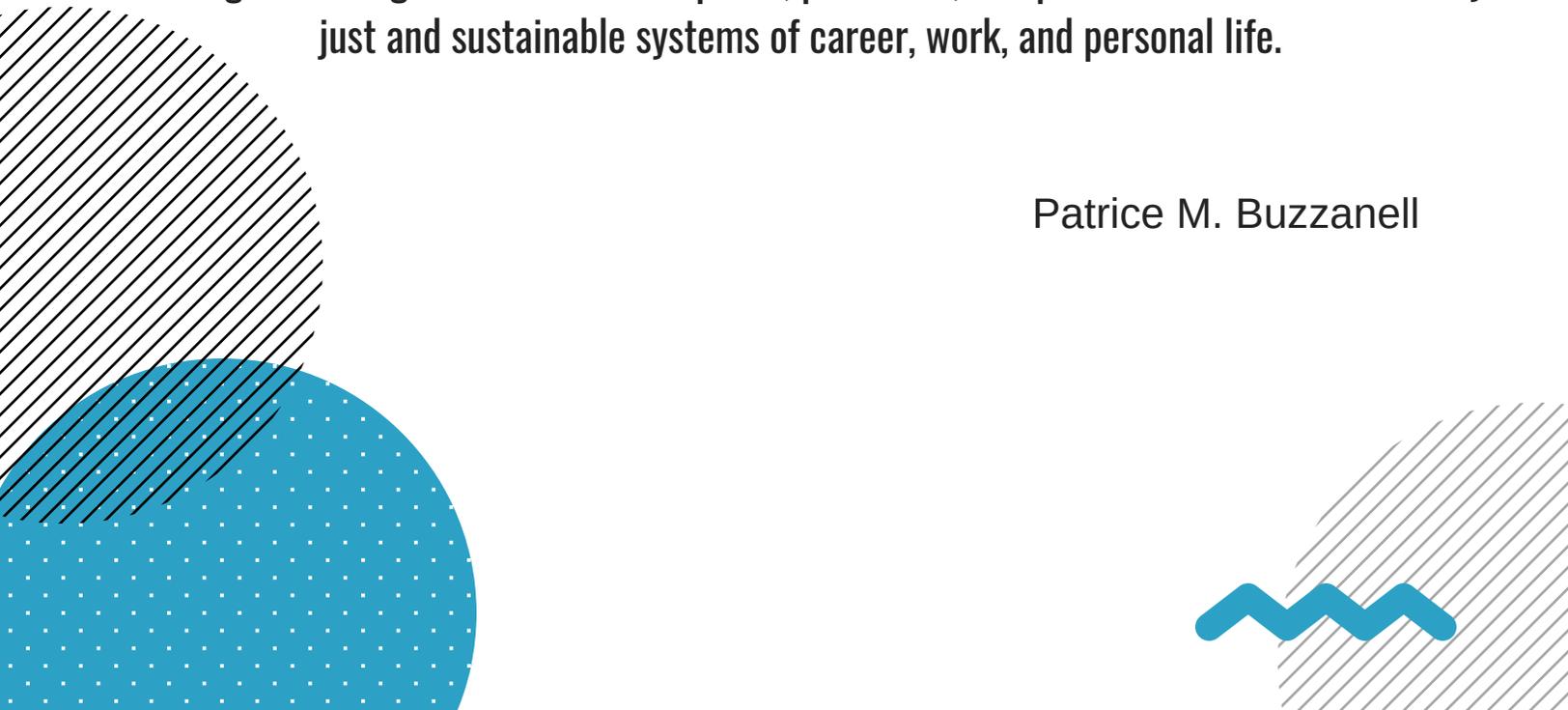


SPC 4930

Cultivating Resilience

This seminar examines the ways in which individuals and communities communicatively constitute resilience or construct a “new normal” after disaster and loss. No longer reserved for major events and trauma, resilience has come to be understood as an ongoing process cultivated by and with others for difficulties on different levels. Through discussions of readings, critique of research proposals/workshop ideas, and creation and display of multi-media mash-up, participants examine how communication offers a distinctive vantage point for understanding resilience. In organizing resilience in career, considerations of both reintegration and transformation—in work-life, professional/occupational challenges, risk, safety, resilience labor, difference, policy, and network ties—offer opportunities and challenges to design communicative spaces, processes, and possibilities for more socially just and sustainable systems of career, work, and personal life.

Patrice M. Buzzanell





SPC 4930

Political Communication



This course examines the content, processes, and effects of communication within the American political system. Each student will gain an understanding of how political language and media technologies are used (and misused) by government institutions (the president, Congress, news media), political candidates, and citizens in a democratic form of government. Course topics include media effects models (agenda setting, priming, framing), presidential communication, the rise and effects of cable news and comedic news, polarization and partisan selective exposure, the benefits and perils of incivility, political campaigning, and gender and political communication.

Joshua Scacco



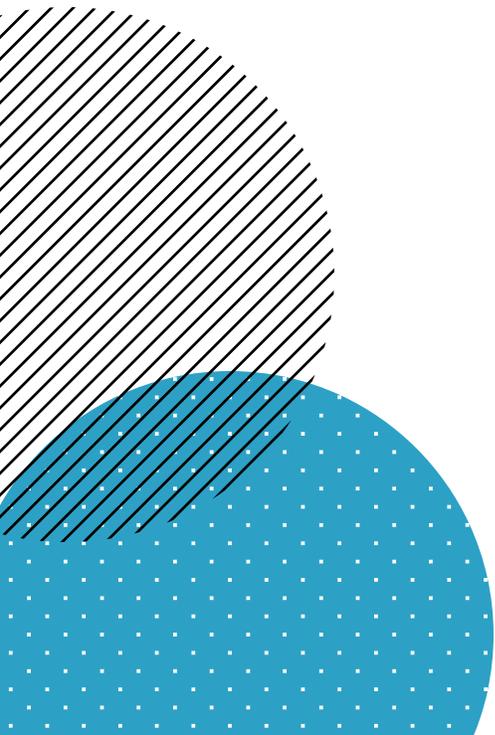


SPC 4930

Patient
Provider



Building on basic concepts of health communication, this class will explore the relationships between healthcare providers, patients, and their families. Specifically, we will examine the fundamental importance of and skills needed for healthcare delivery in various medical encounters, including orienting to one another, establishing trust, and making mutual decisions, as well as the potentially beneficial and/or consequential outcomes for those involved. Our discussion will focus on the evolution of provider-patient interactions from the long-held biomedical perspective to contemporary calls for patient-centered care and narrative-based medicine.



Marleah Dean Kruzell

