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**Sample MA Thesis Plan of Study:**

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**MA Thesis Plan of Study for [Insert Name Here]**

My interests lie in critically examining medical and health systems, disparities and inequities, patient- provider interactions and narratives in order to investigate the Western, medical structure and its processes. Similarly, I seek to investigate how health systems influence and interact with those who participate in it as well as those who are seen as outside of it. By employing qualitive methods and critical and interpretive frameworks, I am able to speak with and listen to those who’s stories are often unheard and unaccounted for, allowing for new knowledge and understanding to be placed at the forefront.

My thesis will engage in the unique intersectional perspective and experiences of those living undiagnosed, chronically ill, and female. This population is an often stigmatized, under-represented, and Othered community that does not embody nor perform dominant beliefs in health standards and norms. Through postcolonial theory, I will investigate the structure and practices of the medical system and how this influences interactions between undiagnosed, chronically ill, female patients and their healthcare professionals.

This will then create a space that elicits community-based participatory research that grants narrative and cultural agency through (counter)storytelling and illness narratives. Specifically, I will incorporate the culture-centered approach to health (CCA) to promote the marginalized voices of undiagnosed, chronically ill women to grant space to discuss their individual and collective health needs as well as be heard on their own accordance. Through CCA, I will also examine the Western medical system’s inequitable structures that elicit health disparities. Lastly, I will utilize critical autoethnography to tell my own medical story of living chronically ill and undiagnosed while paying specific attention to my privileged role as a white researcher.

**Major Area:** Health Communication

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course** | **Semester** | **Credit**  **Hours** | **Professor** | **Grade** |
| **SPC 6934: Race & Ethnicity in Communication** | Spring 2021 | 3 | Durham |  |
| **COM 6025: Health Communication** | Fall 2021 | 3 | Basu |  |
| **SPC 6934: Interpersonal Health Communication** | Spring 2022 | 3 | Dean Kruzel |  |

**Minor Area:** Organizational Communication

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course** | **Semester** | **Credit**  **Hours** | **Professor** | **Grade** |
| **COM 7933: Communication and Identity** | Fall 2020 | 3 | Berry |  |
| **SPC 6934: Power/Control in Organizations** | Spring 2021 | 3 | Pal |  |
| **SPC 6934: Organizational Communication** | Fall 2021 | 3 | Ivancic |  |

**Methodology:** Mixed Methods

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course** | **Semester** | **Credit**  **Hours** | **Professor** | **Grade** |
| **COM 7325: Critical Methods\*** | Fall 2020 | 3 | Dubrofsky |  |
| **COM 7325: Qualitative Methods\*** | Spring 2021 | 3 | Jorgenson |  |
| **COM 7325: Quantitative Methods\*** | Fall 2021 | 3 | Wilson |  |

**Other Coursework**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course** | **Semester** | **Credit**  **Hours** | **Professor** | **Grade** |
| **COM 6001: Histories and Theories of**  **Communication\*** | Fall 2020 | 3 | Basu  Roscoe |  |
| **SPC 6971: Thesis Hours** | Spring 2022 | 6 | N/A |  |

\*Fills MA thesis-track requirement **Total Hours: 36**

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Major Professor Date

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Committee Member Date

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Committee Member Date

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Graduate Director Date