

# CRASH COURSE

## A New Course: Grief Communication with Professor Suhi Choi



Loss could occur in various life circumstances including war, violence, illness, aging, pandemic, migration, displacement, discrimination, environmental disaster, and so forth. In this course, I work with students to become attentive to communicative challenges we face as we make sense of, negotiate, and grieve loss in a variety of settings. Students will collectively and individually explore how people try to communicate loss, grief, and trauma with the aids of a wide range of media. Informed by the interdisciplinary memory studies, I define media in a broader term to

films, magazines, images, memorials, museums, oral testimonies, human bodies, architectures, animations, digital platforms, and so forth. As a critic of media text, students will be asked to closely examine both the content and format of each medium as a potential tool for mediating loss, grief, and trauma. They will also be challenged to review whether each media text activates a kind of mourning practice by which loss is communicated in ways that provoke empathy for one another. I carefully selected assigned readings for this course from such interdisciplinary fields as Communication, Cultural Studies, Memory Studies, Public History, Literature Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Medical Humanities, and so forth.

As we know, the ongoing pandemic has made this course timely and necessary. Grief Communication intends to help students achieve three main goals: (1) Students will have opportunities to grapple with the various sets of inquiries that grief, loss, and trauma have posed in the interdisciplinary field of humanities. (2) Students will make sense of grieving as both a universal and culture-specific process of communication, one that is often facilitated and limited by the various forms of media (3) Students will ultimately appreciate grief, loss, and trauma as powerful sources of fostering empathy for the humanities.