MEDIA AND SOCIETY

Course Description:

Media operate in a profoundly complex relationship with a society—shaping it and being shaped by it. From oral storytelling to the written word, from the telegraph to television, media expand (and sometimes contract) the communicative possibilities for the transmission of knowledge and culture. Today, media have impacts on nearly every facet of our everyday lives. In the course, we will explore the ways in which various media function to support, undermine, and/or change the social landscape from the practices of everyday correspondence to the structuring ideologies that are often taken for granted. Course is conducted on the decorum prevalent in the media-related careers thereby introducing the student to the rigorous discipline required in the professional world.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1) Gain knowledge of the historical development and of today’s media industries;
2) Acquire the fundamentals of media criticism and their application;
3) Analyze media texts and other popular culture phenomena

Major Course Requirements and Expectations:

The following requirements of the course are outlined below along with associated weights as a grade scale for learning assessment along with a grading distribution:

Grade Distribution: A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 59 and below

Attendance, punctuality & participation (15%): Each student is expected to be in attendance and willing to participate in class discussions. However, three unexcused absences will lower your grade by one letter grade.

News/Current Affairs Quizzes (10%): Unannounced quizzes on current events that require staying in tune with news and public affairs developments in the state, country and around the world.
Class Readings/Lecture/Chapter Quizzes (40%): These are multiple choice and short answer questions based on class readings and lectures. They will be given regularly throughout the semester on the dates noted on the class schedule.

Topic Papers or Projects (2 at 10% each for a total of 20%): Two 5-page papers will be assigned during the semester. These will be explained further and discussed in class well in advance of their due dates.

Final Exam (15%): The final exam will be comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions (similar to the quizzes on class readings and lectures) and an essay topic.

Required Textbook and Readings:


Course Policies:

Attendance and Punctuality: Attendance is required—both physically and mentally; punctuality is expected in every class session. You are expected to take an active role in classroom discussions. Late arrivals, and chronic failure to engage in class discussion will all be reflected in your participation grade. Three or more unexcused absences, as noted earlier, will lower your grade by one full letter grade.

Late work and make-up exams

- If there should be a legitimate reason for you missing class (illness, family emergencies, certain University-sponsored extracurricular activities), please provide the instructor with the notification prior to the event or as soon as you are able—before the missed class period. If appropriate, we can arrange alternate times for you to make up quizzes or exams, but it will be your responsibility to get any information from lecture from one of your classmates.
- Any work missed due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up.
- Late work for any reason considered unexcused will be panelized by at least one letter grade for each day it is late.

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Usage: While in class, please make sure your phone is off or on silent (and in your backpack or out of sight), so it’s not heard in class. Also, limited laptop use is not permitted.

- Please remember to check your email for any course updates.
- If you would like to discuss any course readings, lectures, or assignments outside of class, you should feel free to contact me via email or by arranging to visit me during office hours or set up an appointment to see me at any other time.
- Please submit hard copies of your papers, prior to the class period on the due date. Marked copies will be returned to you.
- All writing for this course must be composed using a standard, 12-point font size, and with the standard 1-inch margins.
Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examination or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work). In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in the course grade of F.

Dropping the Course

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation will not automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please check published dates for the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Preferred methods of scholarly citations

- For the purpose of citation, please follow The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th Edition, humanities style (notes and bibliography). For guidance, see: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will result in the grade of F for the course.

Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Grade Appeals*

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Academic Advising: The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 361-825-3466.

Disabilities Accommodations*
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Class Schedule and Assignments

Readings are to be completed prior to the class meeting alongside which they are listed. This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

Week 1: Introduction, course outline/expectations
Jan. 12: Introduction to Course and Textbook (Converging Media) review

Week 2: The Changing Media Landscape
Jan. 17 & 19: Chapter 1: Media and Digital Transformation

Week 3: Media Literacy and Ethics
Jan. 24 & 26: Chapter 2: Media, Message, Channels, Content; Quiz 1

Week 4: Mass Communication Formats
Jan. 31 & Feb. 2: Chapter 3: Digital Media: Online, Networks, Convergence, Media Economics; Quiz 2

Week 5: Print Media
Feb. 7 & 9: Chapter 4: Books, Newspapers, Magazines, and the Future; Quiz 3

Week 6: The Audio: Music, Recording Industry, the Radio
Feb. 14 & 16: Chapter 5: Revolution in audio, Broadcasting industry; Topic Paper # 1 due

Week 7: Visual Media
Feb. 21 & 23: Chapter 6: Visual Media, Movies, Photography and Television; Quiz 4

Week 8: Digital Media and their Impact
Feb. 28 & Mar. 1: Chapter 7: Information Overload, Media Use, Interactive Media; Quiz 5

Week 9: Digital Content and Networks
Mar. 6 & 8: Chapter 8: Network Knowledge, International Channels; Quiz 6

Week 10: Spring Break
Mar. 13 & 15: Spring Break
Week 11: Social Media and the Web
Mar. 20 & 22:  Chapter 9: What are Social Media? Convergence Culture and Content; Quiz 7

Week 12: Media Perspectives
Mar. 27 & 29:  Chapter 10: Journalism and Public Life; Quiz 8

Week 13: The Entertainment Media
April 3 & 5:  Chapter 11: Video Games, Music, Movies and others; Quiz 9

Week 14: The Persuasive Media
April 10 & 12: Chapter 12: Advertising and Public Relations; Topic Paper # 2 due

Week 15: Media Research, Law and Regulations
April 17 & 19: Chapter 13 & 14: Theory & Research, Law and Regulations; Quiz 10;

Week 16: Media Issues
April 24 & 26: Chapter 15: Media and Politics

Week 17: Final Exam
May 1: Final Exam