MEDIA STUDIES

Jeanne Hatle, Theater 117
507-786-3240
hatle@stolaf.edu
wp.stolaf.edu/media-studies (http://wp.stolaf.edu/media-studies)

(Media and Film Studies)

The primary purpose of media studies is to promote media literacy and encourage students to become informed and engaged digital citizens whose media use reflects not just market forces but the development of a civil society. Students pursuing an interdisciplinary concentration in media studies take courses that survey the history of the mass media, the dominant theories and practices that shape media representation, and the effects of the mass media on individuals and groups. Media studies courses are taught from a variety of disciplinary perspectives and are united by the assumption that informed media users are better able to exercise ethical judgment in determining which media are best for themselves, their families, communities, and society in general.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Concentration (http://wp.stolaf.edu/curriculum-committee/media-studies-concentration)

Requirements

With the approval of the program director, students assemble individualized programs of study involving a total of five courses. A concentration consists of a common introductory course, MEDIA 160, plus three approved courses drawn from departments and programs across the curriculum, an academic internship in a media-related field, and a digital portfolio. The purpose of the digital portfolio is to compile a variety of materials related to a media studies education in an integrative and useful way. The portfolio has proven valuable for students applying for jobs and other professional opportunities.

Requirements and plans for individual portfolios are discussed at a mandatory meeting for all junior and senior media studies concentrators, in the fall semester. Graduating concentrators submit their completed portfolios to the program director by April 15 of their senior year.

Media Internship

Students pursuing the media studies concentration enroll in and complete a credit-bearing, academic internship in a media-related field, e.g., film, television, video, radio, Internet, newspaper, magazine, book publishing, journalism, public relations, marketing, advertising, or graphic design. The internship may be undertaken at any time during a program of study. To secure academic credit for a summer internship, students must register for summer session II by June 1. Students are responsible for securing the internship placement and for consulting with the program director and director of academic internships in the Piper Center for Vocation and Career (http://wp.stolaf.edu/pipercenter) for additional information and guidance.

Courses

MEDIA 160: The Media Landscape
This course encourages students to critically assess and shape their personal relationship to the media landscape. Its premise is that we are all, to some extent, uninformed and uncritical consumers of media products, services and effects rather than conscientious and civically engaged users of them. In this spirit, this course is designed to give students a theoretical, as well as practical, experience with issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality as they manifest in mediated artifacts of popular culture. The course is taught from a media studies perspective where students gain skills in critical analysis and media literacy. Concepts of power, privilege, justice, representation, hegemony, consumption and resistance are woven throughout course readings, images, assignments and discussions. Also counts toward film studies concentration.

MEDIA 250: Video News Reporting
This course focuses on the practices, ethics and challenges of video journalism in a digital age. Students learn image-based journalism through academic analyses, review of stories reported by Twin Cities newsrooms, and hands-on production of multiple video broadcast and online news stories. Students acquire video shooting, editing and interviewing skills relevant to the workplace today. The course includes two trips to the Twin Cities to visit the studio and Capitol bureau of KARE 11, the NBC television affiliate in Minneapolis. Offered periodically.

MEDIA 260: Media and Screen Cultures
This course focuses on screen-based media, from television to film, social media platforms to video games, from theoretical and critical perspectives. Primary emphasis is on the diverse ways screen media production, distribution, and consumption inform contemporary issues in the public sphere. In particular, the course examines media discourses on identity, agency, and privacy, and how media representations of race, class, and gender presently exist as both products and producers of contemporary cultures. Also counts toward management studies concentration.

Prerequisite: MEDIA 160 or permission of instructor.

MEDIA 294: Academic Internship

MEDIA 295: Independent Study

MEDIA 298: Internship and Reflection Seminar
This seminar integrates the liberal arts with the experience of work and search for a vocation or career. Course content will include both an off-campus internship and on-campus class sessions that connect academic theories/analyses of work with their particular internship experience. Students will also consider and articulate the value of the liberal arts for their pursuit of a creative, productive, and satisfying professional life.

MEDIA 298: Independent Study

MEDIA 360: Topics in Media
This course provides a capstone to the concentration. Taught as a seminar, it investigates critical and specialized issues in media from multiple and often competing perspectives. Topics change regularly and address a wide range of media-related concerns. Sample topics include Media and the Environment, Media and Religion, Media and Globalization. Offered alternate years.

Prerequisite: MEDIA 160 or permission of instructor.
MEDIA 394: Academic Internship  
MEDIA 396: Directed Undergraduate Research  
This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to his/her research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course. Prerequisite: determined by individual instructor.

MEDIA 398: Independent Research  
Approved Courses  
The following courses are offered annually or biannually: Additional courses that count for media studies may be offered on a periodic or one-time basis. Students interested in having a course approved for media studies should consult the program director.

ART 205 Photography  
ART 228 Animated Art  
ART 229 Digital Filmmaking  
ART 236 Graphic Design  
ART 256 A History of Photography  
ASIAN 270 Visual Culture of Modern China  
ASIAN 156 Contemporary China Through Film (in English translation)  
ASIAN 230 The Philosophy of Anime  
DANCE 150 Movement, the Camera, and the Creative Process  
ENGL 275 Literature and Film  
ENGL 280 Topics in Genre  
ENGL 285 Digital Rhetorics and New Media Literacies  
ENGL 289 Journalistic Writing  
ENGL 291 Intermediate Creative Nonfiction Writing  
ENGL 296 Screenwriting  
FILM 101 Introduction to Film Studies  
GERM 249 German Cinema (in English)  
HIST 182 America Since 1945  
HIST 290 Reel America: U.S. History in Film  
ID 229 Arts Management  
MGMT 250 Marketing  
MUSIC 225 Music in the Electronic Medium  
PHYS 252 Musical Acoustics  
PSCI 211 Media and Politics  
THEAT 275 Writing for Performance  
The following courses are approved when they have media-related content:

AMST 301 Seminar in American Studies  
ART 246 New York Art Interim (off-campus)  
ART 253 Art Since 1945  
ENGL 266 Romanticism and Rock Music  
FREN 250 Speaking (of) French  
FREN 272 Contemporary France  
HIST 375 Problems of Contemporary America  
REL 121 Bible in Culture and Community: "The Bible as Screen Play" and "Jesus at the Movies"  
RUSSN 254 Russian Culture and Civilization  
RUSSN 265 Introduction to Russian and Soviet Film (in English translation)  
RUSSN 372 Topics in Contemporary Russian Society  
SOAN 264 Race and Class in American Culture  
WRIT 111 First-Year Writing: "Writing about Film" and "Page, Stage, and Screen"

Faculty  
Director, 2019-2020  
William Sonnega  
Associate Professor of Theater  
theking; media studies  
Karen R. Achberger  
Professor of German  
German cinema; 20th-century German and Austrian literature; Ingeborg Bachmann; Green Germany; fin-de-siècle Vienna  
Sian E. Christie  
Entrepreneur in Residence  
marketing; entrepreneurship; strategy; arts management  
Carlos Gallego  
Associate Professor of English  
Chicano/a studies; 20th century American literature; comparative ethnic studies; philosophy and critical theory; cultural studies  
Karla E. Hult  
Adjunct Instructor in Theater  

Karil J. Kucera  
Professor of Art and Art History and Asian Studies; Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary and General Studies  
Asian art history; text/image; sacred sites  
Judy Kutulas  
Professor of History  
20th-century U.S. history; U.S. women's history; popular and material culture  
Justin W. Merritt (on leave)  
Professor of Music
composition; theory; instrumentation; electronic music

Linda Y. Mokdad
Assistant Professor of English
film history; classical film theory; feminist film theory; art cinema; Arab cinemas

Diana O. Neal
Associate Professor of Nursing
pediatric nursing; neonatal intensive care nursing; complementary therapies

Rebecca S. Richards
Associate Professor of English
rhetoric and composition; feminist/gender studies; media studies

Anthony W. Roberts
Artist in Residence in Dance
modern dance; dance technology; Companydance

Mary E. Trull
Professor of English
16th- and 17th-century English literature

Karen Wilson
Professor of Theater
theater; ethics and theater; directing; voice/phonetics