

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: MACS 299		Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)													
Course Full Title: Special Topics in Media and Communications Studies I															
Course Short Title: Special Topics I															
Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences		Department: School of Culture, Media, and Society													
Calendar Description: <p>Examines a selected topic in media and communication studies not addressed in current course offerings. Topics covered vary from semester to semester.</p> <p>Note: This course will be offered under different letter designations (e.g. C-Z) representing different topics. This course may be repeated for credit provided the letter designation differs.</p>															
Prerequisites (or NONE):		None. Note: As of January 2025, prerequisites will change to 15 university-level credits.													
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		NONE													
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		NONE													
Antirequisite Courses <i>(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)</i> <p>Former course code/number:</p> <p>Cross-listed with:</p> <p>Equivalent course(s):</p> <p><i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i></p>		Course Details <p>Special Topics course: Yes <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i></p> <p>Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i></p> <p>Grading System: Letter grades</p> <p>Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes</p> <p>Expected frequency: Infrequent</p> <p>Maximum enrolment (for information only): 36</p>													
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lecture/seminar</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total hours</td> <td>45</td> </tr> </table>		Lecture/seminar	45									Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) <p>PLAR is available for this course.</p>	
Lecture/seminar	45														
Total hours	45														
Scheduled Laboratory Hours <p>Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>		Transfer Credit <i>(See bctransferguide.ca.)</i> <p>Transfer credit already exists: Yes</p> <p>Submit outline for (re)articulation: Yes <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i></p>													
Department approval		Date of meeting: October 2023													
Faculty Council approval		Date of meeting: October 13, 2023													
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval		Date of meeting: November 25, 2023													

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

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

1. Define fundamental concepts relevant to an understanding of the topic from a media and communication studies perspective.
2. Describe a specific topic in relation to media and communication studies.
3. Outline several core themes and debates applicable to understanding of the topic.
4. Apply selected theories and ideas to a media and communication studies analysis of a topic/issue.
5. Evaluate the impact of the topic on society.
6. Analyze the role played by the media in society.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Assignments:	50%	Quizzes/tests:	25%	Final exam:	25%
	%		%		%

Details:

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Lecture, seminar, and classroom discussion. Lectures may include films and guest speakers

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Article	Kellner, Douglas	Kellner, Douglas. 2004. "9/11, Spectacles of Terror, and Media Manipulation: A Critique of Jihadist and Bush Media Politics." <i>Critical Discourse Studies</i> 1 (1): 41–64. https://doi.org/10.1080/17405900410001674515 .	2004
2. Online resource	Nadel, Alan	Nadel, Alan. 1997. "A Whole New (Disney) World Order: Aladdin, Atomic Power, and the Muslim Middle East." In <i>Visions of the East: Orientalism in Film</i> , 184–205. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press.	1997
3. Article	Komel, Mirt	Komel, Mirt. 2014. "Orientalism in Assassin's Creed: Self-Orientalizing the Assassins from Frerunners of Modern Terrorism into Occidentalized Heroes." <i>Teorija in Praksa; Ljubljana</i> 51 (1): 72-90,188.	2014
4. Online resource	Jamakani, Amira	Jarmakani, Amira. 2015. "'To Catch a Sheikh' in the War on Terror." In <i>An Imperialist Love Story: Desert Romances and the War on Terror</i> , 43–78. New York: New York University Press.	2015
5. Video	Earp, Jeremy & Sut Jhally	Earp, Jeremy, and Sut Jhally, dirs. 2006. <i>Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People</i> . Media Education Foundation.	2006

Course Content and Topics

Example: Western Media Depictions of Islam

- The West and the Islamic world
- Orientalism
- Racialized regimes of representation
- The "deviant" Muslim
- Muslim "fanatics"
- Racializing Islam
- The "good" Muslim

Example: Superheroes

- Why are superheroes popular now?
- Superheroes as transmedia
- Historical development of superheroes
- Superheroes and class
- Superheroes in relation to race, ethnicity, and Indigeneity
- Superheroes as military propaganda?
- Superheroes and disability
- Superheros and gender