MEDIA STUDIES (MDST)

Courses

MDST 1001 (3) Foundations of Media Studies
Introduces students to key issues and debates and contemporary applications of critical media studies focusing on economic, social, political and cultural implications. Provides an understanding of the relationship between theory and practice and equips students with the tools to critically analyze various forms of textual transmission.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

MDST 1002 (3) Introduction to Social Media
Introduces students to network structures and principles, the technology and infrastructures that allow them to flourish, and the cultures that grow up through and around them. Explores how social media enables community, how it assembles and empowers agents of change and how design informs individual and group behavior.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

MDST 2001 (3) Introduction to Global Media
Explores a world in which new media have enabled humans to be joined in a global system of socio-cultural and economic relations. Underscores the political dimensions of global media, the convergence of global culture, and the ways in which values are produced. Prepares students to become critical of media practices and empowered as active civic participants.

MDST 2002 (3) Media and Communication History
Examines the historical development of communication forms, tools, technologies and institutions (orality, writing, printing, photography, film, radio, television, computers, internet); their influence on culture (forms of expression and social relationships); and their impact on social and individual experience. Applies knowledge of communication history to contemporary social issues and problems in media and society, domestically and internationally.

MDST 2010 (3) Media and Social Movements
Surveys the history and contemporary efforts of social activists to bring about democratic media reform and examines how media are used as tools for connecting and advancing social movements. Emphasis is given to media activism and social movements in the United States, as well as to similar and related transnational activism and movements.
Requisites: Requires a prerequisite course of MDST 1001 (minimum grade C).
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

MDST 2021 (3) Comic Books: Culture and Industry
Explores practices of comic culture across a broad range of graphic stories. Using culture studies approaches to industry analysis and fan community discourses, students examine culture created through and around graphic texts, particularly representations of race, gender, sexuality, institutions and ideology. Considers the political economy of the comic industry, the struggles of independent producers and active fan practices.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

MDST 2031 (3) Documentary and Social Change
Explores how local, national and international filmmakers use documentaries to provide cultural observation, education, entertainment and memories to making sense of and transform the realities of contemporary societies. Emphasizes contemporary issues and practices in the production of documentaries, including the participatory means such as the crowdsourcing of documentary footage and the use of newer, non-theatrical means of distribution.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

MDST 2032 (3) Visual Literacies & Design
Examines cultural visual experiences from critical perspectives and social effects. The course acquaints students with visual design in ways that include image-making as a cognitive and perceptual practice, the production of visual significance and meaning, and the role of technology in creating and understanding mediated images. Students will use a variety of means to produce visual narratives.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

MDST 3001 (3) Media Research
Introduces theoretical approaches and practices used to analyze the content, structure, influence and contexts of media. Explores factors shaping media, including: politics, economics, technology, cultural traditions. Studies concepts, theoretical approaches and research methods of media criticism, and adopts and adapts these frameworks in analyses of mediated communication.

MDST 3002 (3) Digital Culture and Politics
Examines issues at the intersection of digital media, culture and politics, such as regulation and network architecture, piracy and hacking, and grassroots activism. Engage with a range of theories about cultural politics, democracy, liberalism and neo-liberalism in relation to digital information and communication technologies.

MDST 3022 (3) Social Media Cultures
Expands students’ understanding of network cultures, including how social media tools influence conversation strategies, how interfaces interact with perceived communication values, and how network boundaries reinforce distinct cultural identities. Students engage in projects to measure network behavior, create strategic messages to achieve communication and information goals, and to engage in social listening.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 55 or more hours.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
MDST 3201 (3) Media, Culture and Globalization
Surveys the political and economic structures of media system in developed and developing countries and discusses the impact of privatization, ownership consolidation, and globalization on the flow of information across national borders. Also looks at how global media flows and counter-flows affect conceptions of nationhood and cultural identity.

**Requisites:** Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior) College of Media, Communication, and Information (CMI) or Program in Journalism Mass Communication (JOURU) majors only.

**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 3321 (3) Media Industries and Economics
Focuses on the institutions and practices of the media industries. Surveys the histories, structures, and activities of these organizations and the contemporary issues surrounding them.

**Requisites:** Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior) College of Media, Communication, and Information (CMI) or Program in Journalism Mass Communication (JOURU) majors only.

**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 3331 (3) Sports-Media Complex
Explores the rich connections between the sports industry, spectating, the media complex and social life. Using theories of cultural studies and drawing on specific examples from the sports world, students focus on how sport shapes and reinforces understandings of gender, race, class and sexuality. Addresses major questions about the political economy, commodification, mediation and reception of the spectacle of the sports complex, as well as politics and cultural consequences of its transnational reach.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** JRNL 3804

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

MDST 3341 (3) Designing Alternative Media Platforms
Explores alternative forms of media to exhibit student research and build connections with community leaders. Surveys alternative exhibition traditions such as Social Practice, Relational Aesthetics and Craftivism to expand the impact of student work, culminating in the design of a unique cultural event focusing on each individual's research. Software/digital presentation skills.

MDST 3401 (3) Media, Food and Culture
Explores the topic of food as a subject of popular culture: essential to life and the enter of local, national and transnational conflict and social movements. Students will examine media representations of food, what our food choices say about us and what the mediated politics of food mean for our collective future.

**Requisites:** Requires a prerequisite course of MDST 2002 (minimum grade C-).

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

MDST 3711 (3) Media and Popular Culture
Examines culture in the form of discourse, symbols, and texts transmitted through the media. Explores the relationship between such mediated culture and social myth and ideology.

**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 3791 (3) Media and the Public
Provides an overview of how publishing in print and electronic forms has been tied closely to democratic ideals for centuries. Explores how the idea of the public is central to the theory and practice of media politics, and how the contested concepts of "the public sphere" and "public opinion" have long been linked to debates about the proper relationship between media and democratic citizenship.

**Requisites:** Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior) College of Media, Communication, and Information (CMI) or Program in Journalism Mass Communication (JOURU) majors only.

**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 4003 (3) Digital Media Production and Design
Introduces techniques, technologies of online development and online media presentation. Contextualizes the technical and social implications of the Internet through historical and critical perspectives. Students engage in online media projects designed to emphasize the affordances, conventions and usability considerations of effective online communication.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** MDST 5003

**Requisites:** Restricted to students with 55 or more hours.

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

MDST 4111 (3) Crime, Media and Contemporary Culture
Addressed in the course are a range of issues from within a variety of literatures that consider the ways in which the media cover crime. Those literatures are particularly drawn from sociology and the emergent, and increasingly dominant, field of cultural criminology. The focus of the class is to get students to think of "crime" as a constructed and mediated concept and set of narratives that often create problematic public "understandings".

**Requisites:** Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

MDST 4211 (3) Asian Media and Culture
Offers an understanding of the various people, cultures and nations of East Asia through their media systems. Provides a critical overview of the historical, cultural, social, political and economic dimensions of East Asian communication systems in today's digitally connected/disconnected world.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** MDST 5211

**Requisites:** Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).

**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Asia Content

MDST 4221 (3) Media Technology and Cultural Change
Explores how media technologies affect social orders and shape cultural practices across the globe. Compares and critically evaluates different theories of technology, emphasizes the social construction of technology, asks how media technologies inform conceptions of social reality and individual identity and considers how media technologies can be understood across a range of academic disciplines.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite courses of MDST 2002 and MDST 3001 and MDST 3002 (minimum grade C-). Restricted to students with 87-180 credits (Senior, Fifth Year Senior).

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade
Media Studies (MDST)

MDST 4231 (3) Youth Media: Culture and Politics
Emphasizes the sociological understandings of youth cultures, identities and practices in relation to media and politics. Topics include the influences of consumer branding, participatory culture, youth media production and representation, use of social media, mobile phones, gaming, and other digital media, and integrating them around themes of youth styles, gender, ethnic, political identities, consumer culture, social behavior and other trends.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of MDST 3711 (minimum grade C). Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

MDST 4241 (3) Visual Culture and Human Rights
Provides the critical tools needed to understand images and their impact on the recognition and restitution of human rights claims. The course examines both visual practices (e.g. documentation, archiving, witnessing, advocacy and surveillance) and visual media (e.g. photography, film, video, drone and satellite images), unpacking the growing entanglement between visual culture and human rights.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 55 or more hours.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

MDST 4311 (3) Mass Communication Criticism
Introduces the critical perspectives most often employed in qualitative media analysis: semiotics, structuralism, Marxism, psychoanalytical criticism, sociological criticism. Texts from contemporary print and broadcast media.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: MDST 5311

MDST 4331 (3) Gender, Race, Class, and Sexuality in Popular Culture
Studies the construction, interconnections, and replications of gender, race, class, and sexuality in popular culture and how these constructs become cultural norms and mores. Uses critical methods with a focus on producing responsible viewers and readers.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 4341 (3) International Media and Global Crises
Examines strengths and limits on media's role in globalized crises (e.g. financial, climate change, health) in light of changing distribution of global power. Introduction to current crises; context-analytical approach to media technologies, financing and uses; application to national cases.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior) Media Studies (MDST) or International Affairs (IAFS) majors only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Asia Content

MDST 4361 (3) TV and the Family in American Culture and Society
Examines the history and character of two central institutions in American society—the family and television—to gain deeper understanding of their formative and enduring roles. Topics include: intersecting histories of the family and television; economic logic of the TV industry and programming; representations of the family in television programming; how families use and interact with television.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 27-180 credits (Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors) only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 4371 (3) Media and Religion
Examines the way religion uses media as a social and political force. Introduces the major themes and trends in the mediation of religion and the religious inflection of the media in professional, popular, and emerging media contexts.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).

MDST 4372 (3) Islam, Pop Culture and Media
Explores the shifting boundaries of cultural and religious Muslim identities through media representation and production in Muslim-majority countries and in the West. Using popular culture as a complex site of struggle, this course examines how Muslims address questions of gender, ethnicity, class, democracy, sexuality, religion, and modernity in a variety of media forms and practices.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).

MDST 4401 (3) Fan and Audience Studies
Considers how audiences and fans are conceptualized, how they are constructed by media enterprises and how they operate within their cultural ecosystems. While media shape the sociocultural, political and economic dimensions of the social world, fan studies suggest a more active set of practices form sites of resistance and enable a greater degree of influence over cultural production.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite courses of MDST 2002 and MDST 3001 and MDST 3002 (all minimum grade C-).
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

MDST 4601 (3) Media Law, Policy and Ethics
Explores ethical and legal complexities of information and communication technology. Combines real-world inquiry with creative speculation to probe everyday ethical dilemmas faced by digital consumers, creators and coders, as well as policy-makers. Explore themes such as privacy, intellectual property, social justice, free speech, artificial intelligence, social media and ethical lessons from science fiction.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

MDST 4841 (1-4) Undergraduate Independent Study
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 4871 (1-3) Special Topics
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 15.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to students with a minimum of 75 hours taken.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 4931 (1-6) Internship
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Prerequisite of MDST 2002 and MDST 3001 and MDST 3002. (All require minimum grade of C-). Restricted to MDST majors
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives
MDST 5001 (3) Connected Media Practices
Provides a crucial frame through which students understand the evolution of film, television and gaming in the digital era. Explores an impending revolution in how screen media are created, circulated and consumed. Relates to a larger trend across the media industries to integrate digital technology and socially networked communication with traditional screen media practices.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 5002 (3) Media Activism and Public Engagement
Explores politics of media activism. Relies on survey of existing theory and scholarship on media activism and close analyses of activist practices within both old and new media and on local, national and global scale. Special attention paid to questions of relativity and efficacy and value of media activism as both aesthetic and political activity.
Requisites: Requires a prerequisite course of MDST 5001 (minimum grade C-). Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 5003 (3) Digital Media Production and Design
Introduces techniques, technologies of online development and online media presentation. Contextualizes the technical and social implications of the Internet through historical and critical perspectives. Students engage in online media projects designed to emphasize the affordances, conventions and usability considerations of effective online communication.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: MDST 4003
Requisites: Restricted to students with 55 or more hours.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

MDST 5211 (3) Asian Media and Culture
Offers an understanding of the various people, cultures and nations of East Asia through their media systems. Provides a critical overview of the historical, cultural, social, political and economic dimensions of East Asian communication systems in today's digitally connected/disconnected world.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: MDST 4211
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 5311 (3) Mass Communication Criticism
Introduces the critical perspectives most often employed in qualitative media analysis: semiology, structuralism, Marxism, psychoanalytical criticism, sociological criticism. Texts from contemporary print and broadcast media.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: MDST 4311

MDST 5331 (3) Gender, Race, Class, and Sexuality in Popular Culture
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 5841 (1-3) Graduate Independent Study
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 5851 (1-6) Graduate Professional Project
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 5871 (3) Special Topics
Special topics in Media Studies.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 15.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 5931 (1-3) Internship
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 3.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 6051 (3) Media Theories
Studies theories and perspectives of mass and networked communication and explores the role of media in society.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 6061 (3) Media Research
Introduces concepts, theoretical approaches and research methods of media research. Students apply these frameworks in research on mediated communication. Covers qualitative and quantitative methods of gathering and analyzing data.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 6071 (3) Critical Theories of Media and Culture
Introduces students to critical theories and analysis of media and popular culture. Examines major theoretical traditions and/or theorists that significantly inform media studies (e.g., culturalism, structuralism, Marxism, critical theory, feminism, psychoanalysis, post-structuralism) and applies these to media analysis and criticism.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 6201 (3) Global Media and Culture
Explores the historical, cultural, social, political and economic dimensions of media systems in various parts of the world and their relationship with technological and cultural processes. Aims to provide a critical overview of the profound changes in media and culture in today's digitally connected/disconnected world. Formerly MDST 6201.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 6211 (3) Communication and International Development
Studies and analyzes communications technologies and techniques used in addressing social problems in developing countries.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 6301 (3) Communication, Media, and Concepts of the Public
Introduces students to historical and contemporary uses of fundamental concepts in research and theory about media institutions, particularly public, community, mass, publicity, public space, public opinion, public interest, and the public sphere.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 6311 (3) Power, Politics and Mediated Culture
Examines various literatures that consider the role of power in shaping social orders and the social beings that constitute that order and the place of media in both processes.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
MDST 6341 (3) Children, Youth and the Media
Examines the concepts of children and childhood from the historical, social, cultural, economic and political perspectives, this course explores the interaction between mass media and the socialization and cultivation process of children and youth. Multiple theoretical traditions are used as a framework to study a variety of issues related to children and the media.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 6551 (3) Media and Communication Policy
Surveys historical and contemporary developments in media and communications policy, emphasizing social and cultural dimensions.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

MDST 6671 (3) Media, Myth, and Ritual
Explores cultural practices of media audiences. Addresses theoretical and methodological implications of studying audiences from a culturalist perspective, with particular focus on media audience practices. Students engage in field research projects related to course content. Formerly MDST 6671.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 6711 (3) Media and Popular Culture
Introduces fundamental methods for understanding the construction of meaning in film, television, popular music and advertising. Traces the study of popular culture through film theory, mass media analysis and cultural studies. Surveys various strands of research that seek to understand popular culture and its effects.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 6771 (3) History of Media and Communication
Examines history of communication, including the means (technologies) of communication, social practices (institutional, collective, individual) that intersect with the study of communication and media, and cultural forms (texts, products). Situates the study of media, technology, and culture within historical contexts, comparative historical research, media archaeology, genealogy and media history.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 6781 (3) Economic and Political Aspects of Media
Examines economic problems and political issues relevant to media institutions and industries.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 6871 (1-3) Special Topics
Special topics. May be repeated up to 15 total credit hours
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 15.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 6940 (1) Master’s Candidate for Degree
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Broadcast Journalism

MDST 6951 (1-6) Master’s Thesis
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 7001 (1) PhD Colloquium Series
Introduce the new doctoral students to the Media Research and Practice program and its faculty members and their research. The colloquium series will also include workshops on program planning, publishing, attending conferences, writing a dissertation, preparing and presenting a job talk, etc.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 2.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail

MDST 7011 (3) Proseminar in Media Communication Theory 1
Introduces the principal concepts, literature, and theoretical and paradigmatic perspectives of media studies and mass communication and their ties and contributions to parallel domains in the social sciences and humanities. Formerly MDST 7011.
Requisites: Restricted to doctoral students in Media Studies (MDST), Journalism (JRNL) or Advertising, PR and Media Design (APRD) only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 7021 (3) Proseminar in Media Communication Theory 2
Continues the introduction of principle concepts, literature, and theoretical and paradigmatic perspectives of media studies and mass communication and their ties and contributions to parallel domains in the social sciences and humanities. Formerly MDST 7021.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of MDRP 7011 (minimum grade C). Restricted to doctoral students in Media Studies (MDST), Journalism (JRNL) or Advertising, PR and Media Design (APRD).
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 7051 (3) Qualitative Research Methods in Media
Examines various methods of qualitative data gathering and analysis in the mass and social media context. Formerly CMCI 7051.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 7061 (3) Quantitative Research Methods in Media
Examines various methods of quantitative data gathering methods and analysis in the mass media context. Formerly CMCI 7061.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 7841 (1-6) Independent Study
Independent study.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 9.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives
MDST 7871 (3) Special Topics
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 15.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDST 8991 (1-10) Doctoral Dissertation
Repeatability: Repeatable for up to 40.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives