MEDIA STUDIES

Contemporary media practitioners, both professional and amateur, influence the values and behaviors of national and global populations, challenging and shaping the authority, legitimacy and control exercised by governments and other powerful social institutions. Because of this, media and cultural studies are central to research about the complex intersections of culture, politics and economics from the local to the global levels. Appropriately, the Department of Media Studies emphasizes the history, nature and impact of mediated sounds, images and texts from a wide range of inter- and cross-disciplinary perspectives.

The Department of Media Studies examines ways of thinking about and conducting research into the intersection of media, communication and cultural practices in both historical and contemporary perspectives. Encompassing humanistic, social scientific and artistic approaches to the study of media and culture, and interdisciplinary in its theoretical and methodological approaches, the degree spans traditional boundaries between theory and practice. It fosters media “literacy” in the broadest sense by providing students with critical skills to analyze contemporary media and culture, along with technical, aesthetic and intellectual principles that facilitate strong media practices.

Course code for this program is MDRP and MDST.

Master's Degree

- Media and Public Engagement - Master of Arts (MA) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/programs-study/media-studies/media-public-engagement-master-arts-ma/)

Doctoral Degree

- Media Research and Practice - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/programs-study/media-studies/media-research-practice-doctor-philosophy-phd/)

Faculty

While many faculty teach both undergraduate and graduate students, some instruct students at the undergraduate level only. For more information, contact the faculty member’s home department.

Berggreen, Shu-Ling (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_101636/)
Associate Professor, Associate Chair; PhD, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Calabrese, Andrew (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_101073/)
Professor; PhD, Ohio State University

Echchaibi, Nabil (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_145054/)
Associate Professor, Chair; PhD, Indiana University Bloomington

Fisher, Jolene (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_158335/)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Oregon

Goldstein, Donna M. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_100448/)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Hall, Kira (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_123111/)
Professor; PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Hoover, Stewart (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_104549/)
Professor; PhD, University of Pennsylvania

McLean, Polly E. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_100614/)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Texas at Austin

Mody, Bella
Professor Emeritus; PhD, Gujarat University, India; PhD, Gujarat University, India

Peck, Janice Anne (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_106765/)
Professor; PhD, Simon Fraser University (Canada)

Ristovska, Sandra (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_159835/)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Rowland, Willard D.
Professor Emeritus

Schneider, Nathan Todd (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_155612/)
Scholar in Residence; MA, University of California, Santa Barbara

Stevens, John Richard (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_145848/)
Associate Professor, Associate Chair; PhD, University of Texas at Austin

Tracey, Michael (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisd_104259/)
Professor; PhD, Univ of Leicester (England)

Trager, Robert
Professor Emeritus

Courses

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 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.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

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.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

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.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

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.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

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.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

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.

Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

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 6871 (1-3) Special Topics
Special topics. May be repeated up to 15 total credit hours 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 and 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
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 8991 (1-10) Doctoral Dissertation
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 40.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Departmental Category: Core Curriculum and General Electives

MDRP 7871 (3) Special Topics
Special topics.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 15.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.