

# **MEDIA STUDIES SYMPOSIUM**

**COMM 460 – Fall 2018 – CAC 301**  
**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**  
**MW 3:30-4:45**

## **Faculty Info:**

Chris Shofner  
Associate Professor  
Office: CAC 312  
Email: cshofner@uwsp.edu  
Phone: 715-346-3601

## **Office Hours:**

M: 11-12  
T: By Appointment  
W: 11-12  
RF: By Appointment

## **Course Description:**

Edit and revise existing work and present in a public symposium setting.

## **Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course,

1. Students will revise and create work in a cohesive area, subject, and/or topic.
2. Students will effectively communicate how their work relates to similar contemporary and historical works of media.
3. Students will effectively communicate about the technical and conceptual elements of a cohesive body of work visually, orally, and in the written form.

## **Nature of Course:**

Much of the course will feel like an independent study. Most classes will be designed as work time or independent instructor/student meetings. However, there will be work-in-progress presentations and final presentations where all students will attend.

## **Course Outline:**

### Week 1

Course Introduction/Brainstorming

### Week 2

Work Day

One-on-One Project Pitches

### Weeks 3-4

One-on-One Project Pitches Continued

Production Schedule Due

### Week 5

One-on-One Update Meetings

### Weeks 6-7

Work Days

### Week 8

Work-in-Progress Presentations

### Week 9

Work-in-Progress Presentations continued

Work Day

Week 10

Work Days

Scholarly Presentation Attendance Paper Due

Week 11

General Project Presentation Info

Week 12

Work Days

Week 13

Final One-On-One Meetings

Week 14

Final Work Days

Week 15

Final Presentations Day 1

Final Presentations Day 2

Week 16

Final Presentations Day 3

Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 8-10AM

**Assignment Policy:**

**Late assignments will not be accepted.** Students are responsible for all course materials, including, but not limited to: class lectures, handouts, textbook reading assignments, projects, labs, and quizzes. Assignments and due dates may be changed at the instructor's discretion with fair notice to students. Please see the attached tentative course schedule for specific assignments and due dates.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend class regularly. Three absences are allowed. The fourth absence will lower the final grade by one letter. The fifth will lower the final grade by two letters. On the sixth absence, the student must drop or s/he will fail the course. If a student must be absent the day a presentation/project or exam is scheduled, s/he must notify the instructor prior to class time. No make-ups will be given if the instructor is not given a legitimate excuse before the time of the assignment due date. Students who are excessively late to class will be counted as absent.

**\*As this course is primarily independently driven you may work outside of the classroom on designated work days. However, you must let the instructor know if you will be working outside of the classroom otherwise you will be counted as absent.**

Last day to drop without a grade: 9/13/2018

Last day to drop the course: 11/9/2018

**Grading:**

Scholarly Presentation Attendance	10%
Pitch	10%
Project Meetings	10%
Production Schedule	10%
WIP Presentation	10%
Body of Work	20%
Presentation	30%

**Grading Scale:** A= 94-100%; A-= 90-93%; B+= 87-89%; B= 83-86%; B- =80-82%; C+=77-79; C=73-76%; C-=70-72%; D+=67-69%; D=63-66%; D-=60-62% F= Below 60%

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Do not use cellular phones or other electronic devices (i.e. social media) during class instruction time. In addition, students are asked to use classroom computers for class work only. The use of any electronic device during an exam or quiz will result in an immediate "F" for that assignment.

**Email Notification:**

The instructor will send information to students through the campus computer system. Therefore, students **MUST** check their UWSP campus email and D2L on a regular basis.

**Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, check here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). You can also find more information here: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>

**University Handbook Statement:**

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. Click here for more information: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. Don't do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see the UWSP "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" section of the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, Chapter 14, which can be accessed here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

---

**COMM 460**  
**Attend a Scholarly Presentation**  
**Due: 11/7/2018**

**Synopsis:**

You will attend a scholarly presentation outside of class time. In a 1-2 page paper describe the presenters materials, content, and overall presentation style as well as how you might be able to incorporate some of these elements into your own presentation.

**COMM 460  
Media Studies Symposium  
Project Information**

Choose one:

**OPTION 1: PRODUCTION TRACK**

Develop up to 15 minutes of original content. The content must have a cohesive theme (can be a single production). The content may be fiction or nonfiction. May work in groups of 2.

**OPTION 2: WRITING/JOURNALISM TRACK**

Develop between 15-20 pages of journalistic writing (feature, hard news, etc.) that follows a cohesive theme. It may also have an online distribution component (webpage, blog, etc.).

**OPTION 3: OTHER**

If you have a different well-developed idea that doesn't quite fit into these categories we can discuss it as an alternative possibility.

Pitch:

1. Which option?
2. Is this a completely new work, old work, or a combination?
3. Describe the project.
4. What are the barriers to success?
5. What questions do you have?

Presentation:

You will give a 10-12-minute presentation with visuals.

- You will likely only be able to include excerpts of videos.

Ideas for discussion bullet points:

- What the work is about?
- How it relates to contemporary and historical -----
- Your process
- Your future endeavor for the work (publication, exhibition, etc.)
- \*\*We will also work together to develop specific points for your unique work

Important Dates:

9/12, 17	One-On-One Project Pitches
9/19	Production Schedule Due
10/1, 3	One-on-One Update Meetings
10/22, 24	Work-in-Progress Presentations
10/29	Work-in-Progress Presentations Continued
	General Project Info Updates, Demos, Etc.
11/26, 28	Final One-on-One Update Meetings
12/10, 12, 18	Final Presentations

\*There is also a paper component that will be detailed on another handout.