



# Comm 192 Constructing Media Narratives

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**Office Hours:** Tues/Th 2-3 p.m. and by appointment

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## About this course

This class is designed to get you thinking about the fundamental elements that make a story a story, and about how these elements can be used to turn a series of events into a convincing, compelling narrative that has the power to transport you to another world, and perhaps even to change how you think and feel about the world you currently inhabit. Through lectures, readings, screenings, discussion, research & writing assignments and presentations, you will work to meet the following course objectives:

- Define “story” and explain how, why, and when this particular structure can be an effective communication tool
- Identify and analyze narrative structure in fiction and non-fiction stories
- Explain the relationship between structure and content and how they matter
- Describe some of the ethical issues that authors face when creating stories
- Explain how and why stories persist and change over time and in different cultures

## Division of Communication Learning Objectives for Communication Majors

This class will help you achieve the Division’s objectives for Communication majors, especially objectives numbers 1 and 5.

1. communicate effectively using appropriate technologies for diverse audiences
2. plan, evaluate and conduct basic (quantitative and qualitative) communication research
3. use communication theories to understand and solve communication problems
4. apply historical communication perspectives to contemporary issues and practices
5. apply principles of ethical decision making in communication contexts

## Required Texts

Weekly **REQUIRED** readings and screenings will be distributed in class or through electronic reserve.

## Assignments & Grading

Detailed guidelines for each assignment will be distributed in class at the appropriate time.

- Mid-Term Exam: 20 percent of final grade
- Final Exam: 20 percent of final grade
- Final Project: 20 percent of final grade
- Weekly research, writing, and presentation assignments: 40 percent of final grade

Letter grades will be assigned as follows to all graded assignments and the final grade:

94 – 100 % = A	90-93% = A-	87-89% = B+	84-86% = B
80-83% = B-	77-79% = C+	74-76% = C	70-73% = C-
67-69% = D			

## **Policies**

Attendance. The success of this course depends on your active participation. Please arrive on time for each class, ready to actively contribute to class discussion and peer editing work. If you **MUST** miss class, please:

- ◆ Notify me in advance (in case of emergency, notify me as soon as possible)
- ◆ Arrange to get notes from a fellow student. Do **NOT** ask me what you missed!
- ◆ Arrange to have any work due that day turned in at the beginning of class.
- ◆ Realize that there will be **NO MAKE-UPS** for in-class assignments unless you have a documented excuse (note from a doctor, for example) **AND** it's feasible for the assignment to be made-up out of class.

In-class technology use. No cell phones, tablets, laptops or other technology permitted to be used during class. If you require assistive technology, please see me at the beginning of the semester.

E-mail. You may e-mail me with questions, comments and concerns, or to set up an individual conference. I check my e-mail regularly during the week, except when I am out of town. Please leave at least 48-hours for a response.

Deadlines. No late work will be accepted **UNLESS** arrangements are made well in advance. If you do not turn in an assignment on time, you will receive a grade of "zero" for that assignment.

Academic honesty. Please be sure that all the work you produce for this class is original and your own. Be sure to give proper credit for **ANY** work that you use that belongs to others (including items you get on-line). Any student caught plagiarizing will receive a grade of "F" for the course. See the student handbook for University policies regarding plagiarism and other issues of academic honesty.

Conduct. Please treat everyone in this class with professional respect. If you do not, you will be asked to leave the class.