

Fall 2019
MW 3:30-4:45 (CAC 315)

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COMM 460: Media Studies Symposium

This course provides upper-level Media Studies students with the opportunity to either edit and revise existing work or work on an entirely new project that synthesizes skills learned over the course of past semesters, and then present that project in a public symposium setting. Along the way, we'll also discuss the process of coming up with ideas, planning large-scale projects, soliciting and providing peer feedback, and taking the work that you've done and presenting it to a broader audience for the sake of both artistic success and public exposure.

Much of the course will feel like an independent study, and in fact many classes will be designed as work time or independent instructor/student meetings. But we will meet in a large group several times over the semester to pitch ideas to each other, give and receive feedback, and present works in progress. Finally, the semester will culminate in the public exhibition of completed works.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will create and/or revise 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.

Requirements (total of 100)

Scholarly Presentation Report	10%
Pitch	10%
Attendance and Project Meetings	10%
Production Schedule/Plan	10%
WIP Presentation	10%
Body of Work	25%
Presentation	25%

Grading Scale

A: 94-100	B-: 80-83	D+: 67-69
A-: 90-93	C+: 77-79	D: 64-66
B+: 87-89	C: 74-76	F: 0-63
B: 84-86	C-: 70-73	

ASSIGNMENTS

Scholarly Presentation Report

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

Final Project

You have three options for your semester-long project in this class, and for each of these, you also have the option to work in groups of two.

- **OPTION 1: PRODUCTION TRACK**

Develop and/or revise 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.

- **OPTION 2: WRITING/JOURNALISM TRACK**

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

- **OPTION 3: OTHER**

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

Pitch

You will be required to pitch a project to me in a one-on-one meeting, refine that pitch into a 1 to 3-minute presentation, and then present that pitch to the rest of the class. We will discuss best practices for pitching in class, but all pitches should answer these basic questions:

1. Is this a completely new work, old work, or a combination?
2. Describe the project and what you'd like to accomplish.
3. What are the barriers to success?
4. How do you anticipate addressing these barriers?

Production Schedule

You will be required to submit to me a schedule and/or production plan, depending on the type of project you choose to pursue. For example, if you choose to write a feature screenplay, your production plan might be a treatment or step-outline. If you choose to write a scholarly paper, your production plan will likely be a prospectus with an annotated bibliography. We will decide on an individual basis what form your production schedule/plan should take in order for you to complete your final project successfully.

Extra Credit

In the spirit of collaboration, you have the chance to earn extra credit in this class by assisting someone else with their project. This might mean acting, acting as crew, helping edit someone else's writing, providing feedback...there are a million different ways to be a good neighbor. At the end of the class, I will ask each individual or pair who helped them in a substantive way, and boost grades accordingly.

Final Presentation

During the last couple of weeks of class, you will be required to give a 10-12-minute presentation on your final project, complete with visual aids, and also turn in your written materials for preparing that presentation. Your presentation may or may not involve a screening of a completed work in its entirety; it might draw upon excerpts instead. We will discuss your final presentations in class, but ideas for discussion include:

1. What is the work about?
2. How does the work relate to contemporary and historical practices?
3. What was your process?
4. What are your plans for the work (publication, exhibition, etc.)?

Paper Requirements

Unless I indicate that papers can be put on Canvas, assume that I want a hard copy, typed, in 12 point font, double-spaced, and stapled, with the pages numbered. I reserve the right to deduct points for violations of these requirements. Late papers drop by 10% for each 24 hours it's late, whether it's the weekend or a weekday (i.e., a 50-point paper one day late will be penalized 5 points before I grade it). Extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for personal emergencies, but **ONLY** if you ask me **IN ADVANCE** of the actual due date.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory, and will be taken at the beginning of class. **If you are late, it is your responsibility to come up and make sure I've marked you down as present.** If you need to miss class for an emergency, let me know *in advance*. Absences will be excused on a case-by-case basis. You are allowed one unexcused absence, then after that each unexcused absence reduces your participation grade by a point.

In this class, however, we will have both designated independent work days and days that are designed for one-on-one meetings with me. You **MUST** sign up for independent meetings with me—10% of your grade depends on your attendance at both full-class days and these project meetings, and if you stand me up, you lose points. **Pay attention to your syllabus to determine whether you need to be in class or not.**

Class Environment

Students are expected to contribute to a respectful, productive learning environment. This includes being on time, being attentive, participating in class discussions, and being nice to everyone, regardless of their views. Rest assured that it's pretty easy to tell whether a student is actually taking notes on a laptop or playing Fortnite. If you're going to use a laptop or tablet, please use it for class purposes, and please switch cell phones to silent. Also, no texting in class, please. Any violation of the above will impact your grade.

Disability 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 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/>

Statement of Academic Integrity

UW-Stevens Point 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>

Also: if you use Wikipedia, or anything online, you have to CITE IT. I don't care whether you use MLA or Chicago style citations, but please be consistent. When in doubt, CITE THE SOURCE. Consequences for plagiarism are severe: again, see the above link to your Rights and Responsibilities document.

Terms of Enrollment

This syllabus is a contract. By taking this class, you agree to the policies listed here. I reserve the right to change the syllabus, but only within reason, and with timely notification to students.



Course Schedule

Days when you are expected to be in CAC 315 for a whole class meeting are noted.

Week 1

Wednesday, 9/4: CLASS MEETS Course Introduction/Brainstorming
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Week 2

Monday, 9/9: CLASS MEETS Discussion: Project Pitch
Wednesday, 9/11 CLASS MEETS Discussion: Symposium

Week 3

Monday, 9/16: One-on-One Project Pitches
Wednesday, 9/18: One-on-One Project Pitches

Week 4

Monday, 9/23: One-on-One Project Pitches
Wednesday, 9/25: One-on-One Project Pitches

Week 5

Monday, 9/30: CLASS MEETS Pitch to whole class

Wednesday, 10/2: Work Day/informal meetings

Week 6

Monday, 10/7: One-on-One Update Meetings (**Production Plan/Schedule Due**)
Wednesday, 10/9: One-on-One Update Meetings

Week 7

Monday, 10/14: One-on-One Update Meetings

Wednesday, 10/16: One-on-One Update Meetings

Week 8

Monday, 10/21: **CLASS MEETS** Discussion/activity: Your Brand and Professional Identity

Wednesday, 10/23: Work-in-Progress Presentations

Week 9

Monday, 10/28: Work-in-Progress Presentations

Wednesday, 10/30: Work-in-Progress Presentations

Week 10

Monday, 11/4: Work-in-Progress Presentations

Wednesday, 11/6: **CLASS MEETS** Discussion: Your Symposium Presentation

Week 11

Monday, 11/11: Work Day/informal meetings (**Scholarly Presentation Report Due in Canvas**)

Wednesday, 11/13: Work Day/informal meetings

Week 12

Monday, 11/18: Final One-On-One Meetings

Wednesday, 11/20: Final One-On-One Meetings

Week 13

Monday, 11/25: Final One-On-One Meetings

Wednesday, 11/27: Final One-On-One Meetings

Week 14

Monday, 12/2: Work Day/informal meetings

Wednesday, 12/4: Work Day/informal meetings

Week 15

Monday, 12/9: **CLASS MEETS** Final Presentations Day 1

Wednesday, 12/11: **CLASS MEETS** Final Presentations Day 2

Week 16

Thursday, 12/19, 12:30-2:30pm: **CLASS MEETS** Final Presentations Day 3