Mass media is essentially about communication and control. No mediums do this better than film and television. Film and TV effect how we view the world and how we operate within it. This course with closely examine the roles that film and television play in propagating ideologies, as well as the elements of each, their power, and their limits.

The goal is that by the end of the semester you will no longer be a passive viewer. You will have the skills and terminology necessary to recognize the 'hows' and 'whys' of media are more important than the stories themselves.

Course Outline:
Week 1: Hour 1: Class Introduction: Rules, orientation, and goals
   Hour 2: General discussion: What do you watch, and why?
Week 2: Hour 1: Terminology and History: How to talk about media in an academic way
   Hour 2: Building a foundational vocabulary and understanding of viewership.
Week 3: Hour 1: Elements of Visual Storytelling: Shots, mise en scene, and direction
   Hour 2: Viewing: Silent Era to Talkies
Week 4: Hour 1: Why we watch TV and film... Pleasure: trends in popular culture
   Hour 2: Student led discussion over reading.
Week 5: Hour 1: Function of Genre: Expectation and allegory
   Hour 2: Discussion: Genres reading.
Week 6: Hour 1: Realism/Non-Realism/Reality: The dangers of passive culture
   Hour 2: Viewing/Discussion
Week 7: Hour 1: Midterm Viewing and Analysis
   Hour 2: Midterm guidelines, essay formatting
Week 8: Hour 1: Exam Due:
   Hour 2: Exam discussion
Week 9: Hour 1: High Culture vs. Low Culture: Education, class, and race.
Hour 2: Viewing: Shakespeare as teen drama

Week 10: Hour 1: Hyperreality and Postmodernism: Life imitates art.
   Hour 2: Philosophy of Baudrillard

   Hour 2: Same story, different spins viewing.

Week 12: Hour 1: Experimental TV and Film: Is it truly a dead art form?
   Hour 2: Where have all the art-houses gone? Reading discussion

Week 13: Hour 1: Youtube, Hulu, Netflix, Media Glut: Anyone can be a star
   Hour 2: Student led discussion.

Week 14: Hour 1: Begin Final Project: Viewing and overview of expectations.
   Hour 2: troubleshooting approaches to media.

Week 15: Hour 1: Class Wrap Up: You are now a critical viewer… what now?
   Hour 2: How viewers enact change, and dangers of critical viewership.

Week 16: Hour 1:Final Project
   Hour 2: Viewing wrap-up

Textbook(s)
   • Required: weekly articles provided by professor.
   • Recommended: N/A

Class Website: e-Class

   • Course Assignments & Grading:
     Exams: Midterm Essay 40%, Final Essay 40%
   • Quizzes: Potential weekly quiz over weekly readings. Attendance Score.
   • Course Projects:
   • Assignments:
   • Bonus Credit:
   • Grading:

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Grading Policies:
   • Make-Ups: There will be given no make-up to any of the assignments of this course.
   • Contesting: Grades can be contested during a two-week period from the time that
they

were announced. After such period is elapsed, grades may not be contested.

Course Policies:
- Attendance: 10% of final grade. 11 absences equals a final grade of F. Two tardies are the equivalent of an absence.
- Academic Misconduct Policy: Plagerism or cheating will result in an F score for the assignment and possible further consequences including a final grade of F.