



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

ARTS 140

The Message of the Medium

Fall 2020

Instructor Information

Instructor: J. Andrew Deman

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Office Hours: by appointment

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Course Description

Recent political and cultural developments have forced greater consideration of media content and its impact on politics, culture, and society. Sometimes lost in these discussions is the role of specific media forms in controlling what can be said, by whom, and under what circumstances, opportunities, and limitations. This course will explore the issues and challenges surrounding the broad concept of media representation in a variety of facets and forms, with an eye on building the critical toolsets by which different mediums can be considered, interrogated, and -- through sound research methodologies -- ultimately held accountable.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Critically approach various subjects from a mixed method research perspective.
- B. Navigate various academic research systems in support of individual research.
- C. Express ideas in written essays, reports, and smaller assignments.
- D. Work collaboratively within a group dynamic.

Required Texts

- Readings will be provided through our LEARN website.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Survey of Literature	Week 6	15%
Proposal	Week 8	15%
5 Minute Thesis	Week 12	15%
Final Paper	Week 13	35%
Applied Learning Assignments	Varied	20%
Total		100%

Survey of Literature

This will be a group assignment. Students will work together to compose a survey of literature around an assigned topic that is unique to their group, based upon the principals that are outlined in our textbook.

Proposal

This assignment will see students, working individually, draft a proposal for a major project based upon the research conducted within their groups and the survey of literature that they produced. This proposal will be based upon the principals that are outlined in our textbook.

5-Minute Thesis

Based on the principals of the 3-Minute Thesis competition (3MT), this assignment will see students produce and present a 3-5 minute version of their research project.

Final Paper

The ultimate product of the course, the students will submit a final paper as the culmination of their research project throughout the term. Full details and guidelines will be provided through LEARN.

Applied Learning Assignments

In keeping with the workshopping approach to the Arts 130/140 courses, students will be required to undertake specific micro-research projects and produce small samples of work within groups. These assignments will be based on previously covered lecture material.

Course Outline / Class Schedule

Week	TOPIC	Assignments & Readings
1	Introduction	
1	Research Methodologies	
2	Oral Reportage	
2	Data Storage and Interface	Bush (LEARN) - Reading
3	Discourse Analysis	Mini 1
3	The World of Photography	Sontag (LEARN) - Reading
4	The World of/in Advertising	
4	The Survey of Literature	Mini 2
5	The World of Literature	
5	Academic Writing	
6	The World of Comics	Survey of Literature
6	Proposals	Mini 3
7	The Promise of the Digital World	
7	The World of the Internet	
8	Hypertext Scholarship	Mini 4
8	Rhetorical Analysis	Proposal
9	Rhetorical Analysis	
9	The World of Film	
10	The World of Games	Mini 5
10	Visualization & Information Design	

11	Preparation Time	
11	Presentation Period	
12	Presentation Period	
12	Presentation Period	

Late Work

All work submitted late will be subject to a penalty of 10% off per day.

Important Information

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) webpage for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Appeals](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.