

# Syllabus

## MCOM 2307 - Spring 2019

### Mass Media and Society

### Online

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**Office:** HPR 268

**Office Hours:** M/W 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., and by appointment

**Course Description:** Examines the relationship between mass communication processes and both the individual and society; their influence on knowledge, attitudes and behavior. In addition, this course explores interrelationship between social, economic, political and cultural change and media outlets.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, students will be able to:

**1. Competency: Writing and Storytelling**

- a. Write correctly and clearly using the formats and compelling storytelling styles appropriate for the audiences and purposes for public relations/integrated communication or multimedia journalism.

**2. Competency: Analysis and Systematic Inquiry**

**a. Research and Evaluation**

- i. Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to public relations/integrated communication or multimedia journalism professions.
- ii. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the history and roles of professionals and institutions in shaping the field of mass and mediated communication.
- iii. Be able to construct a persuasive message, adapted to the audience, purpose, and context of the situation.

**b. Legal and Ethical Principles**

- i. Demonstrate an understanding of and be able to apply the First Amendment and other legal principles for public relations/integrated communication and/or multimedia journalism
  1. Recognize what constitutes libel, appropriation, intrusion, false light, and publicity about private facts.
- ii. Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and issues for public relations/integrated communication and/or multimedia journalism.
  1. Demonstrate an understanding of ethical behavior in mass media industries.

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**3. Competency: Mediated Presentation**

- a. Apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information using tools and technologies appropriate for public relations/integrated communication or multimedia journalism.

**Upon successful completion of MCOM 2307, students shall meet the above competencies by:**

1. Demonstrating an understanding of the diverse forms of persons, technologies, and communication systems extant in contemporary media environments in the United States - and abroad.
2. Articulating the communicational and social distinction between informational and persuasive messages, campaigns, and behaviors.
3. Analyzing the role technologies of mass communication play in coordinating micro and macro social clusters of persons - organizations.
4. Providing an evidence-based argumentation about the role(s) contemporary technologies of communication play in our social lives.
5. Illustrating the complex tensions held between historical and contemporary technologies of mass communication.
6. Researching and placing into coherent context claims made about the impact and role of technologies of mass communication on contemporary society.

**Evaluation and Grade Calculation**

Discussion Posts	15%
Journals/Other	20%
Media Log & Reflective Essay	25%
Quizzes	15%
Tests (2)	25%
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Total	100%

Percent	Letter Grade
90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

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#### Required Readings:

- Pavlik, J.V., & McIntosh, S. (2014). *Converging media: A new introduction to mass communication* (4th Ed.). New York: Oxford University Press
- Additional readings or content will also be provided as electronic postings and/or links.

#### Recommended Media Consumption:

Immerse yourself in mass media to get the most out of this class. Read newspapers and magazines daily in print and online. Watch news programs regularly. Examine press releases and advertising campaigns. Look at YouTube, Facebook and other social media in the context of this class. Bring in clips and articles and ideas to class for discussion.

Here are some suggested things to read:

**Newspapers:** The Tyler Daily Telegraph, The Patriot Talon, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Dallas Morning News, Fort-Worth Star-Telegram, Christian Science Monitor

**Magazines:** The Economist, Time, Atlantic Monthly, National Geographic

**Viewing:** PBS News hour - online and on the air; The Daily Show with Jon Stewart; CNN's Anderson Cooper 360, Local television stations

**Online:** Politico.com, bbc.com, *TexasTribune.org*, *Probulica.org*, *Youtube.com*, *Hulu.com*, *Poynter.org*

**Listening:** Local stations, NPR stations streamed

**Resources:** www.grammarly.com, newsroom101.net,

In addition to the above, the following books will make you better writers:

- Postman, N. (2006). *Amusing ourselves to death: Public discourse in the age of show business*. New York, N.Y: Penguin Books.

#### Assignment Policy

1. Assignments do have deadlines and these deadlines need to be met. You will need to submit each assignment via Canvas before the due time.
2. Assignments and due dates may be changed at the instructor's discretion with fair notice to students.
3. No make-up tests or quizzes will be allowed after tests close on Canvas.
4. Students must complete all assignments to pass the course. This does not mean that merely completing all assignments guarantees the student will pass the course.
5. Spelling, grammar, and neatness count.

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**Expectations:** We all approach courses with certain expectations. I expect you to:

1. Work hard – learning requires constant reading, researching, thinking, discussing, and working with your classmates and me. Everyone has something important to contribute. My job is to present new information and prepare a climate in which you can contribute your own special knowledge. Your job is to be prepared to contribute.
2. Participate – you must be an active part of the course to succeed.
3. Display Classroom Courtesies
4. Talk, debate, ask questions, and challenge yourselves and each other, but stay on topic.
5. I use Canvas and email to communicate, post assignments and readings, present feedback and provide a space for you to communicate with your classmates. I expect you to check both daily and stay aware of what is coming up.
6. Communicate - If you have a problem with anything throughout the semester... getting an assignment in on time, needing to be absent from a class, getting your book, checking out equipment, or anything I'm doing as a professor... talk to me about it.
7. Hold me to the same standards and expectations that I hold you to.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** Students will adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Anyone caught cheating will earn a “0” for that assignment and will be subject to academic and disciplinary action. Plagiarism (the use of written and oral words or ideas of another person, including another student, without the expressed acknowledgment of the speaker’s or writer’s indebtedness to that person) will not be tolerated. This includes the use of papers or other materials previously submitted to instructors in other classes, as well as video and audio recordings. Students caught plagiarizing will fail this class and be subject to academic and disciplinary action. **PLAIGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

**Course Withdrawal:** The last date to withdraw from classes without penalty is **April 1, 2019.**

#### I. University Policies

##### A. UT Tyler Honor Code:

1. Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do. Students Rights and Responsibilities To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:  
<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

##### B. Campus Carry:

1. We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to

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behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

**C. UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University:**

1. All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

**D. Academic Honesty Policy:** Students will adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Anyone caught cheating will earn a “0” for that assignment and will be subject to academic and disciplinary action. Plagiarism (the use of written and oral words or ideas of another person, including another student, without the expressed acknowledgment of the speaker’s or writer’s indebtedness to that person) will not be tolerated. This includes the use of papers or other materials previously submitted to instructors in other classes, as well as video and audio recordings. Students caught plagiarizing will fail this class and be subject to academic and disciplinary action. (See next section for University Policy)

**E. Student Standards of Academic Conduct**

1. Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.
  - a) “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:
    - (1) copying from another student’s test paper;
    - (2) using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
    - (3) failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
    - (4) possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a

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- violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- (5) using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
  - (6) collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
  - (7) discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
  - (8) divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
  - (9) substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
  - (10) paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
  - (11) falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
  - (12) taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
  - (13) Misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- b) "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.
  - c) "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments

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offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

- d) All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.
- F. The **U-T Tyler Writing Center** provides professional writing tutoring for all students in all disciplines. If you wish to use the Writing Center, you should plan for a minimum of two hour-long tutorials per assignment: the first to provide an initial consultation and drafting plan, and the second to follow up. Be prepared to take an active role in your learning, as you will be asked to discuss your work during your tutorial. While Writing Center tutors are happy to provide constructive criticism and teach effective writing techniques, under no circumstances will they fix, repair, or operate on your paper. Location: BUS 202. Appointments: 903-565-5995.

**G. Disability/Accessibility Services:**

1. In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application.
2. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

**H. Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies:**

1. Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Jan. 28.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.
2. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average.

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Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

3. The Census Date (Jan. 28th) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:
  - a) Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
  - b) Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
  - c) Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
  - d) Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
  - e) Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

#### **I. State-Mandated Course Drop Policy:**

1. Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).
2. Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

#### **J. Student Absence due to Religious Observance:**

1. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

#### **K. Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities:**

1. If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time, the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.



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**L. Social Security and FERPA Statement:**

1. It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**M. Emergency Exits and Evacuation:**

1. Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

**N. UT Tyler Resources for Students:**

1. UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
2. UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
3. The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
4. UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)